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Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2017

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MUSIC LIVES HERE

Songwriters and composers thrive in this Winnipeg neighbourhood

metroNEWS

Marti Sarbit, songwriter and lead vocalist for Lanikai, in Osborne Village. SHANNON VANRAES/FOR METRO

GENDER PARITY

Summer festivals try to hit the right notes

metroNEWS

MEMORIES OF A CAPTIVE

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Vicky Mochama on Don Meredith's resignation

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Manitoba

Pride 30 FOR 30

‘Clowns of drag’ pair are pros at getting dolled up

LGBTQ

Brent Young and Bob Burgess talk their quasi-local celebrity status

Jessica Botelho-Urbanski
Metro | Winnipeg

Even when they’re not dressed in elaborate drag outfits, Brent Young and Bob Burgess are magnets for compliments.

“I love your shirts!” a neighbour yells into their yard as the couple lingers on their front stoop for an interview.

Donning tie-dye tees with “Lazy Drag Queen” written on their chests, Young, 55, and Burgess, 58, discuss how they became quasi-local celebrities as Pictoria Secrete and Gloria Booths.

“When we were starting out, a lot of it had to do with showing a fun side of drag. Because we really did see a lot of the other drag queens taking it way too seriously,” said Young. “We’re the clowns of drag.”

Young and Burgess (or Secrete and Booths) marched in drag for the first time at Pride Winnipeg in 2005, donning 80s prom dresses as self-described “ugly Pridesmaids.”

Every Pride means a challenge to one-up costumes from the year before. Young makes all the costumes by hand and the pair tours the country showing them off at various Pride events.

Bob Burgess and Brent Young, a.k.a. Gloria Booths and Pictoria Secrete, are well-known for their handmade drag costumes, which they’ve shown off in Pride parades across Canada.
JESSICA BOTELHO-URBANSKI/METRO

In 2014 — 10 years after their first Pride Winnipeg march — Burgess and Young hung up their wigs temporarily.

For the last two years, they finally got to experience the extravagance of Pride as spectators, not posing for quite as many selfies with strangers.

Pride Winnipeg asked them back for the 30th anniversary parade this year and they accepted.

Pictoria Secrete and Gloria Booths at Pride Toronto in 2011. SHANNON VANRAES/FOR METRO

But the men remain tight-lipped about what they’ll wear, hinting only that they ordered 14,000 pearls for the occasion.

“I’ve never understood the popularity of Picky and Glory. But if it’s a positive image that we can project, I welcome it,” Young said.

“We’re not trying to fool people into thinking we’re girls,” Burgess added.

“Look at this face — it ain’t passing. Not even for an old lady.”

> **If it’s a positive image that we can project, I welcome it.**
> Brent Young

METRO ASKS:

BOB BURGESS & BRENT YOUNG

Favourite Pride moment

Young: “One of our favourite Pride moments was we actually won Best Costume in the 2008 Pride parade. And let me tell you, that’s no small feat.”

Why was Pride important 30 years ago?

Burgess: “It was time for the government to take notice of the queer community that was falling through the cracks in legislation regarding partners, (like) hospital visitation, partner benefits, etc. They fought to pave the way for equal benefits.”

Why is Pride important now?

Burgess: “Because there is still bullying going on online and in schools, leading to suicides. (In) many areas still in Canada, you would still not be treated as equal.”

Young: “Pride draws attention to the plights of LGBTTQ (people) in other countries, such as the detention camps in Chechnya...

Working with other countries’ governments to rescue gays and bring them to Canada where they will be safe.”

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

U.S. reacts to FBI director's firing as Trump welcomes Russian foreign minister to White House. **World**

Local group planning city's first LGBTTQ seniors home

HUMAN RIGHTS

Many go back into closet at facilities due to discrimination

Jessica Botelho-Urbanski
Metro | Winnipeg

Winnipeg could soon be ground zero for an innovative housing facility catering to LGBTTQ seniors.

John Kletke, 59, chairs Positive Spaces, a sub-committee at the Rainbow Resource Centre (RRC) that's vying to build a mixed-use commercial and residential space.

Still in the early stages, plans for the seniors' active living centre include 90 to 120 units of affordable housing, a coffee shop, dentist and doctors' offices and new headquarters for Rainbow Resource Centre.

The building would be located somewhere central, close to transit lines and amenities, like groceries and restaurants.

Kletke said he's spearheading the campaign because too many LGBTTQ people feel forced back into the closet when they enter seniors' homes.

"We fought the battle back in the 70s. We don't want to fight it again when we're 70," he said. "When (seniors) go into nursing homes, they have to go back into the closet — not so much from the staff, but the other residents they've been battling their whole life."

John Kletke, 59, chair of the Positive Spaces committee at Rainbow Resource Centre, hopes to build one of the first LGBTTQ-focused seniors' active living facilities in Canada.
LYLE STAFFORD/FOR METRO

Rainbow Resource Centre's executive director Mike Tutthill said he's heard many stories of seniors being disrespected in nursing homes, whether by staff or fellow peers whose religious values don't mesh with the LGBTTQ community.

"We've also heard stories of folks as they age and start getting dementia, who will revert to a time where they were facing marginalization," he said.

> **"We fought the battle back in the 70s. We don't want to fight it again when we're 70.**
> John Kletke

Seniors' facilities aren't necessarily equipped to deal with aging HIV/AIDS patients either, Tutthill added, as new medical advances mean patients are living longer.

Positive Spaces will be hosting a third set of town halls to gage community interest on Monday. The events happen from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Rainbow Resource Centre (170 Scott St.).

The committee's next steps include planning a feasibility study and beginning to organize fundraising for their capital campaign.

Once built, the LGBTTQ seniors living facility would be among the first of its kind in Canada. A similar building exists in Toronto and plans for a facility in Edmonton are underway.

"I think once a proper one is built, it will be under a microscope from everyone," said Kletke. "Once one is up and running properly, you will see others happen."

TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC

Educating children on mental health

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Winnipeg

The Teddy Bears' Picnic is going to be extra warm and fuzzy this year. The Worry Bear tent, a pretend medical area, wants to teach kids and parents alike how to cope with mental health issues.

"Children tend to externalize a lot of problems or project their difficulties on to their toys," said Dr. Rehman Abdulrehman, clinical director at Clinic Psychology Manitoba, which will be running the Worry Bear tent. "We're going to teach them how to teach their teddy bears not to worry or how to cope with their worries."

Kids will play mini-counsellors to their teddies, instructing them how to tackle negative thoughts or cope with panic attacks. In previous years, the Teddy Bears' Picnic has featured tents where children can learn how to fix their teddy bears' booboos or hear tips on healthy eating. But this is the first tent with a mental health focus.

According to the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, 70 per cent of adults with mental health issues trace their problems to childhood or adolescence. This shows how important it is to raising awareness around mental illnesses at young age, added Dr. Abdulrehman.

The Teddy Bears' Picnic will be May 28 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Assiniboine Park.

One very melodic postal code

STUDY

Neighbourhood boasts bevy of Canada's best songwriters

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Winnipeg

Picture a Winnipeg musician jotting down lyrics in his living room. Or a composer sitting in front of her piano. Now pull back a bit and envision the neighbourhood where that songwriter resides.

It's probably no surprise that your songstress is seated somewhere in Osborne Village, among the plethora of bars, cafés and restaurants.

Yet again, Winnipeg's trendy neighbourhood has cemented itself as one of the most successful regions in Canada for songwriters and music composers. That's according to the latest study by SOCAN, which represents 130,000 people in the industry.

The group's methodology is simple: SOCAN takes all its membership data from the previous year, examines the postal codes and breaks them down. Among Winnipeg musicians, the R3L postal code — known as River Heights East — dominates, putting the neighbourhood in the same musical vein as Montreal's Rosedale and Toronto's Little Portugal.

"Whether the neighbourhood attracts the music creators and publishers or the music creators and publishers build the neighbourhood isn't really clear. But it does seem to be a symbiotic relationship," said Andrew Berthoff, SOCAN's chief communications and marketing officer.

"People want to live around music — especially younger people."

Marti Sarbit, songwriter and lead vocalist for Lanikai, has been an Osborne Village resident for the better part of a decade. She's seen an influx of 20-something songwriters cropping up in the neighbourhood.

"A lot of them are living together in houses and constantly writing. You can just see it," she said. "I feel like there's a big surge of experimental and unique bands coming out of those age groups."

Given the neighbourhood's high density, it's little surprise that most of the data shows songwriters congregate around Osborne.

For David Landreth, of the Bros. Landreth, the reasons to live in the Village are obvious and probably apply to most of the area's residents — nearby amenities, nightlife, restaurants and bus access. He said the neighbourhood personally boosts his well-being, which might inadvertently improve his songwriting.

"I like the busyness of it. I like all the people that are around, the pulse, being close to the energy of a city that's thrumming and humming, bouncing along," he said.

Sean McManus, executive director of Manitoba Music, said this SOCAN data is proof that industry support needs to spread out beyond big cultural hubs like Montreal and Toronto.

"There's great music coming out of Winnipeg and we need to make sure that we're doing what we can to support that music community, those creators, that industry," McManus said. "It's not an industry where the career path is as straightforward as it is in a lot of other sectors."

Marti Sarbit, songwriter and lead vocalist for Lanikai stands in Winnipeg's Osborne Village.
SHANNON VANRAES/FOR METRO

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Music fests inch toward gender parity

Jessica Botelho-Urbanski
Metro | Winnipeg

As more Manitoba music festivals unveil summer lineups, one artistic director said there's no reason not to have gender parity among performers.

"When I see festivals that have a lot more money than us, I don't think there's really any excuse," said Shandra MacNeill of the Brandon Folk, Music and Art Festival. "When you're able to hire headliners that are able to attract an audience, the artists that you're developing — the lesser-known (artists) — you really have free reign to choose who you want to have in there," she said. "And nobody really needs to know who they are, they just have to be great."

At Brandon Folk this year, half the lineup identifies as female.

Interstellar Rodeo unveiled its Winnipeg lineup Tuesday. The event boasts seven female artists among 15 performers (about 47 per cent), including Sarah Slean, Terra Lightfoot and Yola Carter.

Real Love Summer Festival hasn't revealed its artists yet, but co-artistic director Gilad Carroll said 67 per cent of the lineup identifies as female.

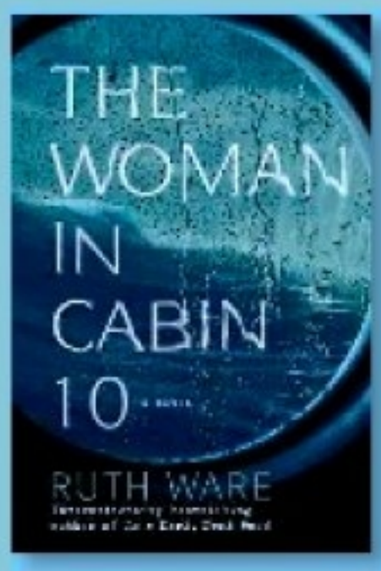
For more niche festivals, like Manitoba Electronic Music Exhibition, the path to gender parity can be challenging.

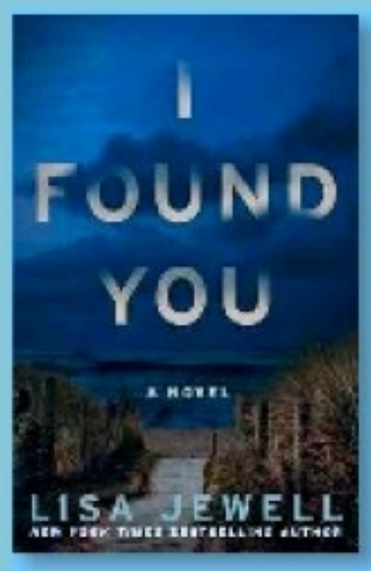
Festival director Nathan Zahn said MEME is trying to foster more female performers through its educational workshops, which run throughout the festival.

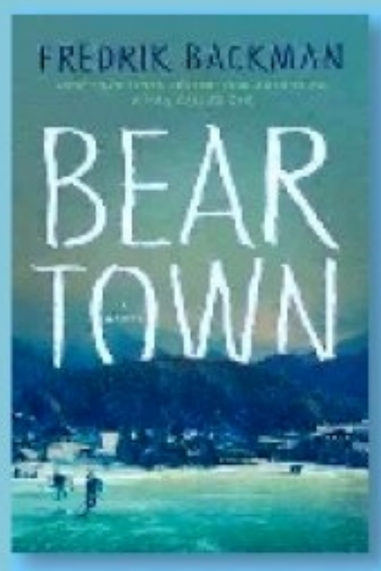
"Like a lot of institutions, we couldn't just book 50 per cent women out of the gate because they don't exist. They're not there, which is really fascinating and frustrating," Zahn said.

"So what we can control is our workshops … We can make sure that half of our participants are female. And that's been really cool.

Mom deserves the Best (books)







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Can Mexico and Canada weather a NAFTA storm?

TRADE

As countries have grown closer, irritants have arisen

To hear Pierre Alarie tell it, Mexico and Canada are like two weary travellers seeking shelter from the same storm — the fierce bluster from Donald Trump's frequent criticism of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The two nations will be better able to withstand that storm if they stand together, the Canadian ambassador to Mexico declared last month during a speech to a business gathering in that country's capital city.

Alarie's message, Mexican and Canadian officials say, reflects a deep level of co-operation between the two countries — something that, given the challenging three-way dynamics of North American politics, hasn't always been the case in the past.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meets with Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto during the APEC Summit in Lima, Peru, last November. THE CANADIAN PRESS

It may not be the case in the future, either.

If push comes to shove, some observers warn, Canada will have to jettison Mexico and pursue its own bilateral side deal with the U.S. if the NAFTA talks degenerate.

A strong, newly negotiated three-way NAFTA is the goal, said Maryscott Greenwood, head of the Canadian American Business Council. But strained relations between Trump and Mexico could well make that difficult, she acknowledged.

"If it's politically impossible … for the U.S. to move forward with a comprehensive economic relationship with Mexico for various reasons — Mexican politics, U.S. politics — then we think, 'Don't be delayed by that; move forward with a bilateral negotiation,'" Greenwood recently told the House of Commons foreign affairs committee.

Not surprisingly, Mexico's political leaders, like Tourism Minister Enrique de la Madrid Cordero, warn against abandoning NAFTA's unique three-way nature.

Canada and Mexico should be working together to modernize the 23-year-old trade deal, not settling for a series of bilateral side deals where one country throws the other under the bus to serve its own interests, he said.

The two countries have grown closer over the years, but other irritants have arisen, notably the visa requirement that Stephen Harper's Conservative government imposed on Mexican travellers in 2009. It was lifted last year by the Liberals.

Officials from either side of the Canada-Mexico divide, speaking on condition of anonymity in order to discuss matters of diplomatic sensitivity, say the lines of communication between the two countries are always open. THE CANADIAN PRESS

KINGSTON, ONT

Flintstones held up sale of woman's SUV

It's a yabba dabba doozy.

A 75-year-old Kingston-area woman couldn't trade in her Chevrolet SUV because Ontario's Ministry of Government and Consumer Services registered a lien on it in the name of Pebbles and Fred Flintstone.

"I thought I'd seen every imaginable government incompetence," said Progressive Conservative MPP Randy Hillier (Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington), who raised the cartoonish case Wednesday in the legislature.

"Clearly, we all knew this was an act of gross incompetence as everyone knows the Flintstones live on Rocky Road in Bedrock, U.S.A., and Fred drives a foot-mobile, not a 2006 Chev Uplander."

The goof took nine months to clear up after someone in the ministry had the nerve to advise hiring a lawyer to expunge the lien instead of simply fixing an obvious mistake.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

FLOODING

Quebec to be pelted with even more rain

While water levels continued their slow decline in some parts of Quebec on Wednesday, the province's environment minister warned the situation could deteriorate in others this weekend because of heavy rain.

David Heurtel said the central Quebec region of Mauricie is expected to bear the brunt of the precipitation.

"We're looking at considerable rainfall on the weekend," he told a news conference, adding "we're talking about 20 to 40 millimetres but in Mauricie the impact will be even greater."

Heurtel said the combination of rain, melting snow in the St-Maurice River basin and rising tides could prove to be damaging in the region. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Americans react to firing

INVESTIGATION

Abrupt ouster of FBI director Comey draws sharp criticism

Americans could be forgiven if they're feeling a bit whiplashed by recent events in the nation's capital. Less than a week after House Republicans voted to dismantle Barack Obama's health care law, President Donald Trump abruptly fired FBI Director James Comey — only the second time in history that an FBI chief has been removed from office.

Then, on Wednesday, Trump met with Russia's top diplomat amid ongoing FBI and congressional probes of Russian meddling in last year's presidential election and possible contacts between the Trump campaign and Russia.

As voters processed the latest batch of news out of Washington, their opinions on Comey's dramatic sacking seemed to divide along familiar partisan lines: Republicans and Trump supporters saw it as necessary, while Democrats viewed it with suspicion.

Pennsylvania resident Tom Stump took a different tack, urging people to slow down and let the facts on Comey develop. "I'd say the jury's still out," he said.

Hundreds rally to protest against President Donald Trump's firing of FBI Director James Comey outside the White House Wednesday in Washington, DC. GETTY IMAGES

'I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH HIM'

As a Democrat who voted for Hillary Clinton, Loretta Shollenberger is no fan of Comey. She believes he helped decide the November election for Trump when he reopened the investigation into Clinton's email practices in the waning days of the campaign.

But Shollenberger believes Trump's firing of Comey had nothing to do with his handling of the probe.

"It's bogus," said Shollenberger, 69, from Mohrsville, Pennsylvania. "I think they're getting a little too close with his ties to Russia."

Trump hoodwinked his supporters, she said, but "he doesn't have me buffaloed. I can see right through him."

Shollenberger said she's concerned about the direction of the country and places blame squarely at the feet of the president.

"I would like to see him impeached and locked up," she said.

'KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT'

Tom Hier, 54, a Navy veteran and disabled security officer from Valrico, Florida, fully supports Trump's decision on Comey.

"As the FBI director, you've got to know when to say stuff and know when to keep your mouth shut," he said.

Hier was in downtown Bartow, Florida, on Wednesday for the campaign kickoff of Republican gubernatorial candidate Adam Putnam. Other Republicans at the event, including 77-year-old retiree Bill Ockington of The Villages, expressed similar views.

"But I'm surprised it happened," he said, "because everything is still up in the air."

By "everything," he meant the Russia probe.

"I think that should continue," he said.

DETAILS

Days before he was fired by Donald Trump, FBI Director James Comey requested more resources to pursue his investigation into Russia's election meddling and the possible involvement of Trump associates, U.S. officials said Wednesday, fueling concerns that Trump was trying to undermine a probe that could threaten his presidency. It was unclear whether word of the request ever made its way to Trump.

'NATIONAL TRAGEDY'

Oklahoma City bookstore owner Charles Martin supported Hillary Clinton in November, but he's tried to remain hopeful during the Trump presidency.

But Trump's latest move has him worried.

Firing the FBI director amid an ongoing investigation into possible contacts between the Trump campaign and Russia is un-American and something expected in a "strong-arm regime," said Martin, 40.

"What is unsettling about this is it looks like we might be getting to the end of what's been a national embarrassment and starting to approach the cusp of a national tragedy," Martin said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

POLITICS

Trump hosts Russian foreign minister, envoy at White House

President Donald Trump on Wednesday welcomed Vladimir Putin's top diplomat to the White House for Trump's highest level face-to-face contact with a Russian government official since he took office in January.

The talks came a day after Trump fired the FBI director who was overseeing an investigation into Russia's alleged interference in the 2016 presidential election.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov entered through the West Executive entrance, out of range for reporters to ask questions. Also attending was Sergey Kislyak, the Russian ambassador to the U.S. who is at the centre of many of the Trump administration's early Russia-related woes.

The Russian Foreign Ministry tweeted a photo of Trump and Lavrov shaking hands in the Oval Office, and another of Trump and Kislyak. The White House called reporters into the Oval Office around the time of the meeting, but Lavrov and Kislyak had already left. And, in a surprise, Trump greeted the media with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

In brief remarks to journalists after the meeting, Trump said his decision to abruptly fire FBI Director James Comey the day before his meeting with Lavrov did not affect the meeting "at all."

Earlier Wednesday, Lavrov met with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who said the get-together was a chance for the two to "continue our dialogue" and "exchange of views" that they started last month in Moscow. During that trip, Tillerson said relations with Russia were at a low and needed to be rebuilt.

A Russian plan to stabilize Syria after more than six years of civil war was the most urgent foreign policy topic on the Trump-Lavrov agenda.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NUCLEAR

Concerns over nuclear waste sites

The collapse of a tunnel containing radioactive waste at the Hanford nuclear weapons complex underscored what critics have long been saying: that the toxic remnants of the Cold War are being stored in haphazard and unsafe conditions, and time is running out to deal with the problem.

"Unfortunately, the crisis at Hanford is far from an isolated incident," said Kevin Kamps of the anti-nuclear group Beyond Nuclear.

For instance, at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina, which opened in the 1950s and produced plutonium and tritium, the government is labouring to clean up groundwater contamination along with 40 million gallons of radioactive liquid waste stored in tanks that are decades past their projected lifespan. The job is likely to take decades.

At Hanford, in addition to the tunnel collapse discovered on Tuesday, dozens of underground storage tanks, some dating to World War II, are leaking highly radioactive materials.

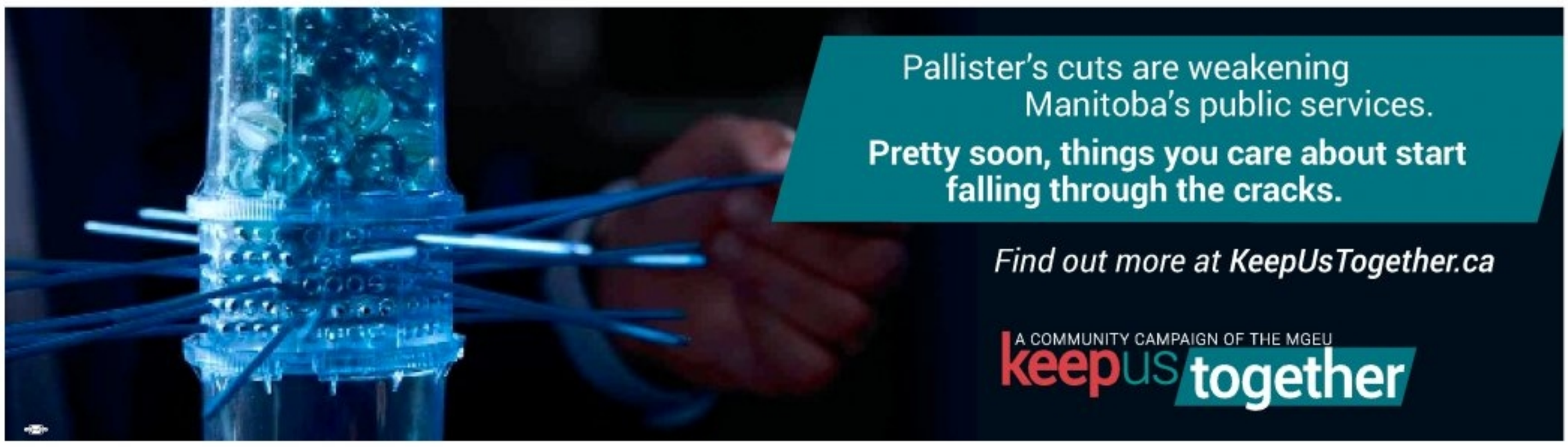
The problem is that the U.S. government rushed to build nuclear weapons during the Cold War with little thought given to how to permanently dispose of the resulting waste.

Safely removing it now is proving enormously expensive, slow-going, extraordinarily dangerous, and so complex that much of the technology required simply does not exist. The cleanup has also been plagued with setbacks both political and technical.

For example, the nation's only underground nuclear waste repository, in New Mexico, closed to new shipments in 2014 after an improperly packed drum of waste ruptured. The site just recently reopened.

The U.S. Department of Energy spends about $6 billion a year on managing waste left from the production of nuclear weapons.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



metro VIEW
Your essential daily news

New episode May 12 featuring Jen Agg and Rebecca Kohler

CHANTAL HÉBERT ON THE B.C. ELECTION

With pipelines and electoral reform rearing their heads, one way or another this is not the result the Trudeau government wanted or needed.

On the morning after Tuesday's British Columbia election, there was no ready acknowledgement by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's office of the results of the provincial vote in Canada's third largest province and no boilerplate salute to the dawn of a new mandate.

It is hard to put the sound of one hand clapping into words.

In the wake of an election that failed to give either of the province's main parties a clear win, it will take weeks — and probably at some point in the not so distant future another election — for the political landscape in British Columbia to sort itself out.

On Tuesday, the province's voters left the incumbent Liberals on the doorstep of a majority, just one seat short of the 44 required to keep control of the B.C. legislature. There is still a possibility that a handful of recounts and/or the outcome of the absentee vote will help premier Christy Clark to cross the threshold.

Under that best-case scenario for her party, she would lead a government so fragile it would be at the mercy for its survival of the whims of a few maverick MPs from her own ranks. It does not enhance the moral authority of an incumbent to need a recount to be reconfirmed in the job.

Only two seats separate the first-place Liberals from the New Democrats. The recount could also flip the result in favour of the NDP.

But under just about any configuration of the final seat-count, Clark and NDP leader John Horgan will have to try to come to terms with the Green Party. With three seats, it has the capacity to anchor one or the other to power and provide B.C. with some measure of governing stability.

Green Party leader Andrew Weaver could do that by joining the Liberals or the NDP in a coalition government as the Saskatchewan Liberals did in 1999 or as the Ontario NDP did in 1985 by agreeing to support one of the other parties in government for some period of time in exchange for policies that are close to his heart.

The province stands to be in permanent campaign mode.

But whether Clark remains at the helm beyond the first confidence vote of the opening session of the mandate or not or even if she ends up clinging to a razor-thin majority it will hardly be business as usual. As of now and until B.C. returns to the polls at some unspecified time, the province stands to be in permanent campaign mode.

In the interval, the uncertain outcome of Tuesday's vote could force Clark's Liberals to belatedly renounce their rich diet of corporate donations and join the political fundraising Canadian mainstream.

It could also restore some impetus to the electoral reform debate. Both the B.C. Greens and the NDP advocate a more proportional voting system. The province has done more legwork on the issue than most other Canadian jurisdictions. There may be a window to try — for the third time — to replace the first-past-the-post system.

One way or another, though, this is not the result the Trudeau government wanted or needed.

As things stand today, a majority of the elected members of the next B.C. legislature are on record as opposing the Kinder Morgan plans to expand its Trans Mountain pipeline.

Clark herself only offered tepid support for the plan. Should she form a viable government, it is unlikely to be the hill she would choose to die on.

The project is a key piece in Trudeau's energy/environment puzzle but not one that his own caucus is unanimously enamoured with. The Prime Minister has always claimed that he did not believe such projects should proceed without a social licence.

It was not the only issue on the B.C. ballot but it was in the mix. Clark's Liberals took most of the hits that cost them their soft majority cushion in and around the ground zero of the Trans Mountain project, in the larger Vancouver area.

That will be duly noted not only in the Liberal backrooms of Parliament Hill but also in the constituency offices of Trudeau's 17 B.C. MPs.

This is just the first of a series of provincial elections that could weaken Trudeau's hand at the federal-provincial table. By the time the next federal election comes around in 2019, Quebec, Ontario and Alberta will also have gone to the polls and each of those provincial votes has the potential to result in more complications for the agenda of the ruling federal Liberals.

SHAKY GROUND Christy Clark and Justin Trudeau were once all smiles, but there was no rush at the Prime Minister's Office to congratulate the B.C. Premier on her narrow victory. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

Meredith case ought to be a wake up call for Parliament Hill

Vicky Mochama
Metro

Don Meredith may be gone from the Hill, but the atmosphere that enabled him is still a concern for women.

When Ms. M decided to report her sexual relationship with Sen. Meredith to authorities, the police told her although a case like hers comes with a publication ban on her name, "her identity would be known to anyone who attended court or examined the court file," according to The Toronto Star.

Instead, she chose to report to the Senate ethics officer, who offered her a cloak of confidentiality. (The ethics officer, believing a crime may have occurred, notified the police who asked the Senate to suspend its investigation. After four months, Ottawa police stopped the investigation without laying charges.)

Though not a Hill staffer herself, Ms. M chose to speak to Star reporter Kevin Donovan after hearing other media reports that Sen. Meredith was under investigation for sexual harassment in the workplace: "She was concerned that the investigators would not believe what the former staff members were alleging and she wanted to add her voice to the story."

Her bravery and fortitude are beyond commendable.

Her story, however, is part of the problem and future of Parliament Hill.

For all we hear about "men in power," the halls of government in Ottawa are female-dominated. Female staffers and volunteers are the backbone and engine of the legislative branch. Many are young, ambitious, and for those reasons, vulnerable.

Were that not enough, the systems of accountability can be unclear. To whom does a young staffer report their MP? Or their chief of staff? Or a fellow staffer?

The viable options can differ from party to party, which makes it even harder for young staffers. In a three-part series, the Hill Times reported on this dynamic: "Even if someone does report, they may be reporting the harassment to either their own MP or one of their MP's colleagues, through the whip's office, though the House chief human resources officer is also a reporting avenue."

In 2014, the House of Commons launched a harassment policy. And while this led to more complaints being filed, there are also many that exist outside of the House's jurisdiction, yet entirely within their culture.

A VICE essay by former staffer Beisan Zubi showed how the culture of Parliament Hill can deter someone from reporting sexual harassment. From lobbyist parties to bar nights with colleagues to one-on-one meetings, being both collegial and ambitious can put workers on the Hill in danger.

Ms. M's bravery in holding the Senator accountable must be met with an equally bold response.

The bubble of the Hill ought to make way for a cultural change and policies that ensure the safety of its most vulnerable workers.

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Academy Award winner Steve McQueen will direct an authorized documentary about Tupac Shakur

‘I wanted the reader to be stuck in there and almost suffocate’

BOOKS

Quebec cartoonist captures the agony of being kidnapped

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

Christophe André, an administrator working in the Caucasus with the humanitarian organization Médecins Sans Frontières, was sleeping one night when a group of men burst into his bedroom, threw a sack over his head and took him into captivity.

He was held in a series of bare apartments, his arm chained above his head to a radiator, unaware of what his kidnappers wanted, until he escaped 111 days later in Chechnya, barefooted, weak and malnourished.

André’s abduction took place 20 years ago, early in the summer of 1997, but kidnapping remains an occupational hazard for employees of non-governmental organizations like MSF.

In some politically volatile countries like Somalia, Syria and Afghanistan, kidnapping is almost a rite of passage.

Quebec-born cartoonist Guy Delisle — who now lives in France where he is considered a celebrity artist — remembers reading a newspaper interview with André after his escape. Delisle was captivated by the story because most people who have returned from a kidnapping don’t want to talk about their experiences.

But Delisle was struck by André’s openness and a quote where he said, “He felt like a football player that scored the last goal and won the match.”

The story also had a deep personal connection for Delisle. His wife Nadège is a former administrator with MSF, and his experiences travelling with their family for her job is the subject of two of his acclaimed graphic novels, Burma Chronicles and Jerusalem: Chronicles from the Holy City.

When Delisle initially met André in person, he was full of questions, and took many notes even before they left the restaurant.

“I didn’t think he wanted to go into detail, but he was talking very freely about the whole thing, and he gave us the whole story from beginning to end,” says Delisle, who immediately suggested to André they turn his memories into a comic.

André had no desire to write a book about the experience but agreed and provided more recordings and documents. Delisle began their interview process, and the tough work of illustrating a story where most of the action happens in someone’s head.

Hostage — which Delisle started drawing in 2003 and is now being released in English by Montreal publisher Drawn & Quarterly (translated by Helge Dascher) — is a nail-biter of a tale told completely from André’s point of view.

As André’s captivity stretches out over months, Delisle ratchets up the tension with repetitive linework, a gloomy grey palette and tightly boxed-in panels, which just adds to the overwhelming sense of confinement. In developing the story, Delisle even took a few tips from old interviews with the master of suspense, Alfred Hitchcock.

“I wanted the reader to be stuck there, just like Christophe was, then turn the page and almost suffocate,” says Delisle. “There are so many pages where you want to escape, but it’s not that easy in 450 pages.”

As André’s body gets weaker, the earlier fantasies of returning home for his sister’s wedding and his own homecoming seem impossible.

But then comes his incredible movie-worthy escape, thanks to a door left fortuitously open. Delisle suggests that while readers can imagine themselves in André’s life-or-death predicament, or be confident that they would run or fight, it’s nearly impossible to know one’s reaction under all that physical and emotional stress.

“It’s really hard to imagine what you would do, because you really do have to be in that situation to realize that you can do crazy things and you are much more than you think,” says Delisle.

“Christophe is an administrator, not an adventure guy. It really is the story of an ordinary guy in an extraordinary situation.”

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

Aid worker Christophe André’s kidnapping ordeal is portrayed in comic book style in Guy Delisle’s claustrophobic Hostage. CONTRIBUTED

INDIGENOUS ISSUES

Editor quits over cultural appropriation column

Writer and editor Hal Niedzviecki has resigned as editor of Write, the Writers’ Union of Canada magazine, after outrage sparked by an opinion piece titled Winning the Appropriation Prize he wrote in an issue devoted to Indigenous writing.

In it, he states that “I don’t believe in cultural appropriation. In my opinion, anyone, anywhere, should be encouraged to imagine other peoples, other cultures, other identities.”

He notes that most Canadian literature is written by people who are “white and middle-class” and exhorts them to look outside of their own community and write about “what you don’t know” in an effort to “explore the lives of people who aren’t like you.”

“Set your sights on the big goal: Win the Appropriation Prize,” he notes in the piece which appears under the label Writer’s Prompt.

Niedzviecki, who is also the founder and editor of Broken Pencil magazine, went on to reference the Indigenous writers whose work fills this issue of the magazine: “Indigenous writers, buffeted by history and circumstance, so often must write from what they don’t know . . . They are on the vanguard, taking risks, bravely forging ahead into the unknown.”

As writers began receiving the issue on Tuesday, outrage on social media was fast and furious.

“I am seriously disgusted that someone would use the Indigenous issue of Write as a jump point for a case for cultural appropriation on the backs, words, and reputations of the Indigenous writers featured in it. It’s not enough that we are finding our voices, reclaiming our ability to tell stories, and having to heal to tell these stories. But people want to tell them for us,” Helen Knott, a contributor to the issue, wrote on Facebook.

Board member Nikki Reimer posted on Twitter a link to a statement in which she resigns from the board of the Writers’ Union. She calls the column “clueless and thoughtless” and saying it “marks Write magazine as a space that is not safe for indigenous and racialized writers.”

She goes on to say that, “Canada is ‘exhaustingly white and middle class’ not because white writers are afraid to write stories they don’t ‘know,’ but because white writers don’t get out of the way and make space for the multitude of stories to be told by those who aren’t white and middle class.”

The Writers’ Union quickly stepped in, apologizing “unequivocally” and noting Wednesday that “the editor of Write magazine has resigned from his position.”

Niedzviecki did not immediately return requests for comment.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bringing Little Free Libraries to book

READING

Study suggests exchanges don't quench thirst in 'book deserts'

David Hains
Metro | Toronto

For years now, charming little "take-a-book, leave-a-book" structures have been popping up on homeowners' lawns across Canada and the world.

Although many of us have noticed these conveniently late-fee-free libraries, fewer people know they're overseen by Little Free Library, an American non-profit with 50,000 registered mini-libraries worldwide.

The organization's stated mission is to inspire a love of reading, build community, and increase access to books, especially in so-called "book deserts," where public libraries and bookstores are scarce. Fees to register a book box start at $49 US.

And some radical librarians say supporters of Little Free Library aren't seeing the bigger story.

In a study published in the Journal of Radical Librarianship (it's a real thing!) Ryerson University librarian Jane Schmidt and University of Toronto reference specialist Jordan Hale argue that the neighbourhood mini-libraries don't live up to their goals.

Hale and Schmidt mapped out the locations of the registered take-a-book, leave-a-book fixtures in Toronto and Calgary. They found the sweet little structures are located mainly in majority-white, affluent neighbourhoods well-served by public libraries — not the book deserts most in need.

"Who could critique a little birdhouse of books?" Hale rhetorically asked Metro, adding that she has an issue with the Little Free Library organization, and not the idea of swapping and sharing books.

But her paper does just that.

"We posit that in absence of any research or evidence of an issue to be addressed ... simply encouraging literacy in an already information-rich and privileged environment is hardly a heroic charitable act," Schmidt and Hale wrote.

Jordan Hale has co-authored a critique of the book exchange system known as Little Free Libraries. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

The publication has been met with scorn from some in the library community, including on Library Journal's Annoyed Librarian blog, whose pseudonymous author wrote, "The entire article could have been boiled down to this sentence: Little Free Libraries claim to put books in places without public libraries, but that's not true in Toronto and only partially true in Calgary, and they are not politically radical and therefore are bad."

As far as watering book deserts goes, Little Free Library does provide no-cost depots through a donor-driven fund.

The non-profit told Metro they have set up hundreds of units through the donor program, including 40 in the past eight months in the U.S., and look to continue to add more.

"Through these little libraries, millions of books are shared each year," spokesperson Margret Aldrich wrote in an email.

Hale expressed concern that some jurisdictions turn to Little Free Libraries following cuts to full-scale libraries and that they are not an adequate substitute.

She encouraged people to support their local public library and literacy initiatives in communities that need them most.

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DAILY TREAT
Winnipeg metro

Wow mom with a gadget gift

FOR THOSE ON THE RUN

Future-proof ways of saying 'I love you'

Marc Saltzman

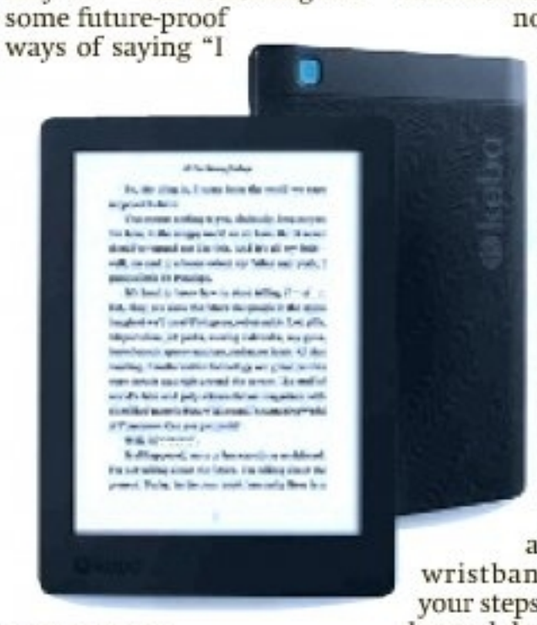
Resist the predictable. Instead of picking up mom some flowers, chocolates or fancy bath soaps, consider a shiny new tech toy for mom to play around with.

After all, today's busy moms could use a great gadget while on the go, whether it's to stay organized, entertained, or in touch with those who matter.

If you need some suggestions ahead of Mother's Day — and yes, it's this Sunday, May 14 — the following are some future-proof ways of saying "I love you," with prices ranging from $49 to $239.

FITBIT ALTA HR

Book 'em: Whether your mom hasn't yet used an ereader or if it's time for an upgrade, the all new Kobo Aura H20 ($199) is a lightweight and waterproof device with a sharp 6.8-inch anti-glare screen, customizable text, and enough storage to carry many thousands of books. Along with more than five million titles at the Kobo Bookstore, you can also borrow books from your local library for free. This Kobo also features ComfortLight PRO, which not only illuminates the screen while reading in bed (without having to turn on a night table lamp), but it also reduces blue-light exposure so it won't prevent mom from getting tired.


KOBO AURA H20

All in the wrist: The latest on the "activity tracker" scene, Fitbit Alta HR ($199, regular price) is a slim and stylish wristband that monitors your steps, distance, calories burned, heart rate, and gives friendly reminders to move. Fitbit Alta HR also includes SmartTrack automatic exercise recognition, which gives you credit for being active, while optional smartphone notifications keep you connected throughout the day. Tailor your look for any occasion with interchangeable metal, leather, and classic bands. By night, Alta HR automatically tracks your sleep and shows your time spent in light, deep and REM sleep.

Music matters: Perhaps mom wants to relax on a backyard deck, balcony, or by a pool? Adding the right music can make the difference between a good day and a great one. Boompods Aquapod ($80) is a durable and waterproof "go anywhere" Bluetooth speaker with large touch controls, 70 decibels of loud and cloud sound, and an integrated microphone if a call comes in. Whether mom uses this speaker for music, podcasts or audiobooks (or all three), it includes an accessory pack, which includes a bike mount, suction cup wall mount (for shower), karabiner, and safety lanyard. Available in multiple colours, battery life tops five hours between charges.

BOOMPODS AQUAPOD

RING VIDEO DOORBELL

Ring my bell: As the name suggests, the Ring Video Doorbell ($239) lets you see who's at your front door — whether you're home or not. Working in conjunction with a companion app on smartphone or tablet, this Wi-Fi doorbell shows who's on your doorstep (in clear 720p HD), and you can have a two-way audio conversation with your visitor. Motion sensors detect movement up to 30 feet, and sends you automatic alerts, and so you can be notified even before they press the button. All recorded footage is stored to the cloud, in case you ever need it. Other features include easy set up (opt for battery power or use your existing bell's wiring), night vision support, and a wide-angle lens to see more of your home's entrance in high definition.

She's so crafty: For the mom who likes scrapbooking, works from home, or wants to create fun activities for the kids, the Epson Expression Home XP-440 Small-in-One Printer ($99) is an affordable and compact printer, scanner, copier and fax machine. Print from virtually anywhere, even when mom's not at home, and whether she's on a smartphone, tablet or computer. Using the Epson Creative Print App, she can easily print Facebook and Instagram photos directly from her mobile device, create photo collages, send personalized messages, customize greeting cards and stationery, and turn memories into fun colouring pages. For added creativity, Epson's specialty paper includes Iron-On Transfer Paper ($21 for 10 sheets), Photo Paper Glossy ($17 for 100 sheets), or Presentation Paper Matte ($21 for 100 sheets).

EPSON EXPRESSION HOME XP-440 SMALL-IN-ONE PRINTER

Spoil mom with gifts that pamper

BEAUTY

Skin care, makeup, fragrance and lifestyle treats

Janine Falcon

5-minute-face mom: A clever compact that includes coordinated eye shades, blush, bronzer and highlighter makes speedy makeup a breeze, especially when its designed by a superstar artist who works on faces of all ages. *Charlotte Tilbury Beauty Glow Palette, $85; Available at Nordstrom.*

Beauty-tech mom: In addition to a blissful three-minute neck-and-face massage twice daily, and 6x-better-than-hands cleansing, mom can enjoy firmer, bouncier skin and a more defined, lifted effect in 12 weeks. *Clarisonic Firming Massage Head for existing Clarisonic Smart Profile units, $79 or Clarisonic Smart Profile Uplift Set, $429; Available at Hudson's Bay.*

Not-dressed-without-fragrance mom: Think bouquets for mom with the Aerin Rose Cologne Collection, which spotlights the white Bulgarian rose in three light, spirit-lifting arrangements: Bamboo Rose, Linen Rose and Garden Rose. *6mL eau de cologne rollerball, $34; 200mL spray, $198. Available at Holt Renfrew, Nordstrom and Saks Fifth Avenue.*

Sparkle-and-shine mom: Go twinsies on jewelry — that you and mom wear matching tokens of deep affection will always warm your hearts. (Sappy, but wonderfully true.) *Jenny Bird x Indigo Collection Moonbeam Cuff, $40 (regular price); Available at Indigo.*

Entrepreneur mom: Help mom empower other moms by providing resources for small-business ventures that support women and their families in developing countries. *Plan International Canada's The Mom Shop Gift of Hope, $75; Visit plangifts.com.*

Time-savvy mom: An ultra-thin timepiece clad in misty-rose matte nude with glimmering golden design accents goes with everything, and means mom can check the time on the fly, without digging for her phone. *Swatch SKIN Skin watch, $145; Visit shop.swatch.com for retailers.*

Outdoorsy mom: Particulate-matter pollution is so tiny that it can get into pores and create complexion issues, including premature aging. Update mom's skin care rituals with an activated-charcoal treatment that draws those impurities out, smooths, brightens and protects, too. *Dermalogica Daily Superfoliant, $79; Visit dermalogica.ca for retailers.*

Bathroom-spa mom: A soothing, non-drying clarifying Italian-clay masque that serves as a deep cleanser and spot treatment. It comes in a weighty, limited-edition jar designed by Italian ceramics workshop Rometti. *Fresh Umbrian Clay Purifying Mask, $75; Available at Sephora and Nordstrom.*

Early-morning mom: A lightweight, no-cord, built-in-lighting mirror makes pre-sunshine makeup application next to the coffee maker easier for mom. Bonus: 7x magnification on the flip side. *Conair Reflections LED Lighted vanity mirror, $49.99; Visit conaircanada.ca for retailers.*

No-mess mom: A re-useable (up to three times) dry sheet mask infused with anti-aging peptides and ingredients such as Shea butter and glycerin, that help skin hold onto moisture, is an ideal no-clean-up treat for mom's complexion. *Charlotte Tilbury Instant Magic Dry Sheet Face Mask, $27; Available at Holt Renfrew.*

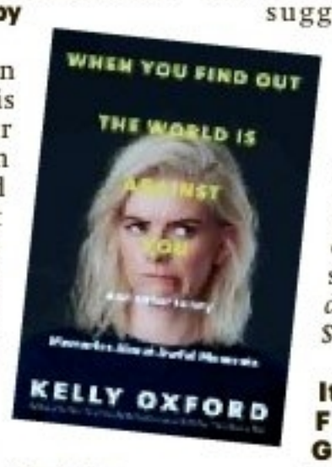
In-a-rush mom: Dry shampoo between washes tempers oil at the scalp, but what about keeping the length supple and shiny? Enter dry conditioner, which detangles, softens and refreshes the rest of mom's second- or third-day 'do. *Aveda Shampure Thermal Dry Conditioner, $40; Visit aveda.ca for locations.*

Has-everything mom: If she already has a Dyson Supersonic hair dryer, then mom really has everything — except maybe an air purifier that filters out 99.97 per cent of allergens, including pollen, pet dander and mold spores, as well as 0.3 microns. Plus it heats and cools as needed. *Dyson Pure Hot+Cool Link, $699; Visit dysoncanada.ca for retailers.*

Literary picks for the family bookworm

Amongst this crop of recently published books by moms, for moms and about moms, you'll find a book to suit the voracious bookworm, the leader of the book club, or the poolside page-turner.

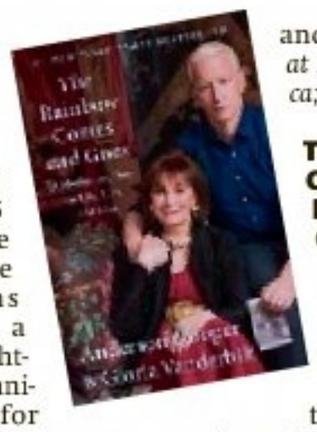
When You Find Out the World Is Against You by Kelly Oxford



Funny woman Kelly Oxford is back with her second collection of essays, filled with the sort of razor-sharp and hilarious anecdotes and observations that first catapulted the Calgary mom to Twitter fame — and to a new life in Los Angeles — years ago. *Available at Indigo and Amazon.ca; $15.99-$46.23.*

Dear Ijeawele, or A Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

When an old friend reached out for advice on how to best raise her daughter as a feminist, Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie responded with a letter detailing 15 ideas. Now, Adichie has turned those suggestions into a thoughtful manifesto for parents seeking to raise empowered, feminist daughters — and sons. *Available at Indigo and Amazon.ca; $9.99-$11.40.*



It All Begins with Food by Leah Garrad-Cole

For new moms and mothers of young children, Leah Garrad-Cole's book is a rich resource for creating delicious and wholesome meals that teach an appreciation for healthy living. The author knows her stuff; she's the founder of Love Child Organics, the highly successful maker of healthy snacks for kids and babies. *Available at Indigo and Amazon.ca; $16.99-$28.39.*

The Rainbow Comes and Goes by Anderson Cooper and Gloria Vanderbilt

In this deeply intimate collection of personal correspondence, the famous mother-and-son duo discuss their lives with incredible candor, revealing their unique bond and their distinctive personalities. Mom may need tissues for this one. *Available at Indigo and Amazon.ca; $11.99-$26.70.*

Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi

Homecoming tells the story of Effia and Esi, two half-sisters who, born into different villages in 18th century Ghana, are unknown to one another and are cast on different trajectories that lead to disparate lives. Yaa Gyasi's masterful debut novel weaves together themes of love, race, history, geography and familial bonds. *Available at Indigo and Amazon.ca; $13.99-$42.01.* JACLYN TERSIGNI

HOME
Your essential daily news

Former Park Slope apartment of Barack Obama listed for $4.3M

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From *chaos* to clutter-free

DIY and design expert Leigh-Ann Allaire Perrault found herself blushing every time she opened the door to the garage of the Oakville home she shares with her husband and two young sons. "I was embarrassed that neighbours could see all the chaos," she admits. So Allaire Perrault set to work, creating an efficient, attractive space she now jokes "may be the nicest room in the house." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Allaire Perrault now sees her garage as an extension of the house, and a room she can be proud of. ALL PHOTOS TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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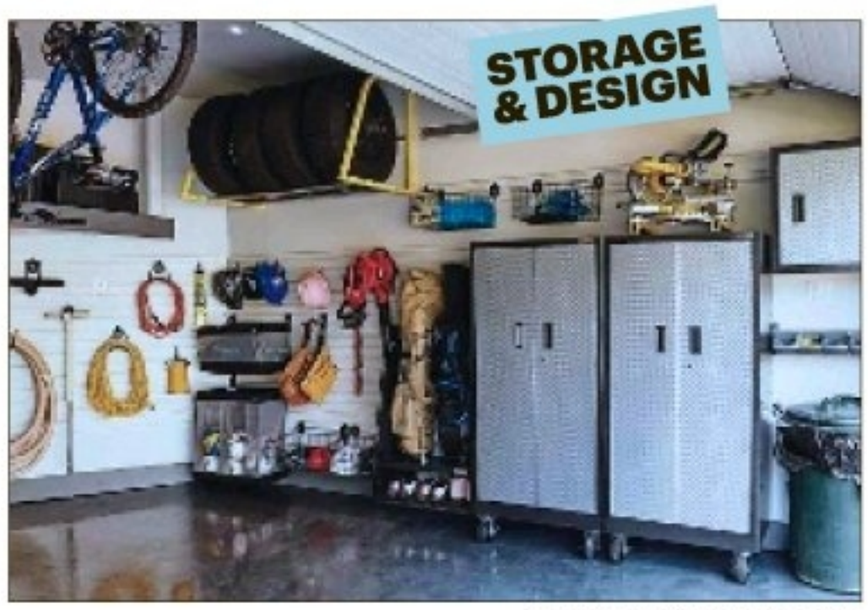


ALL PHOTOS TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1 ORGANIZE

The reorganization process started with a simple sketch by Allaire Perrault that designated "categories of tools, cleaning supplies, seasonal equipment, and recreational stuff I knew we wanted close at hand."

Using the ceiling for storage "freed up a lot of real estate," including the floor space necessary for two cars that had not seen the inside of a garage for awhile. Since the revamp, Allaire Perrault thinks twice about new purchases.

"I'm so happy not to have clutter," she says.

2 FLOOR

Investments in the redesign include new drywall and the installation of pot lights to improve visibility when doing chores. Allaire Perrault also wanted a hard-working floor, so she treated it with a sealant called Rocksolid Moisture Stop and then with an epoxy coating from Rust-Oleum that creates a marbleized, impenetrable surface (available in a kit at home improvement retailers.) Rubberized floor trim makes annual cleanings less of a hassle, as do moveable storage units.

3 WORK SPACE

Allaire Perrault created a pop-up work space that can lay flat when not in use by attaching a simple pine board to folding wall hooks. A peg board spray painted in a look-at-me yellow and edged in shoe moulding spray painted grey keeps frequently used items organized and accessible. Space above now contains perches for seasonal items, such as tires and bikes.

4 UPCYCLE

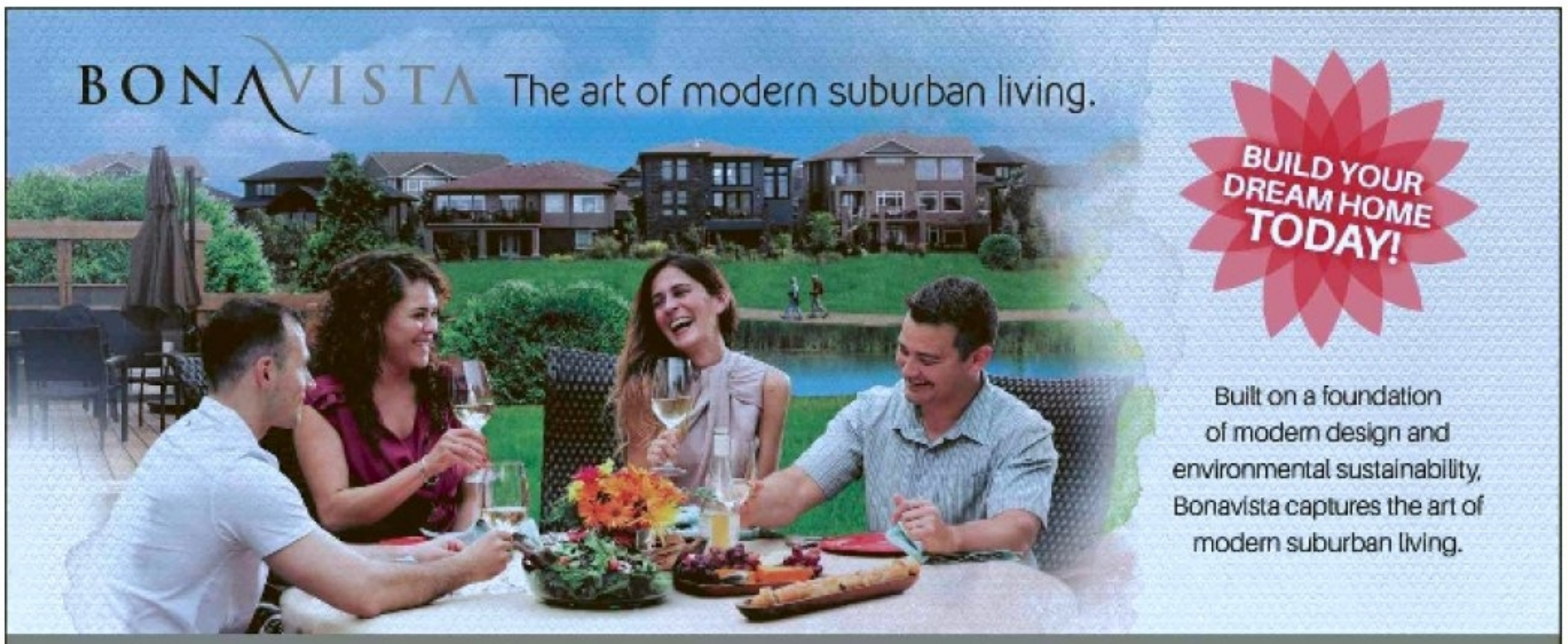
A $20 Kijiji find, a cheerful-looking cabinet had been badly rusted when Allaire Perrault rescued it. She gave it new life by using Krud Kutter rust remover and then coating it with rust-inhibiting paint in a sunny yellow. Adding labels to each drawer put everything from scissors to string in their proper space. "It used to be simpler to just go out and buy a new hammer instead of searching for the one I knew was somewhere in the garage," says Allaire Perrault. "My husband kept asking me why I needed 10 hammers."

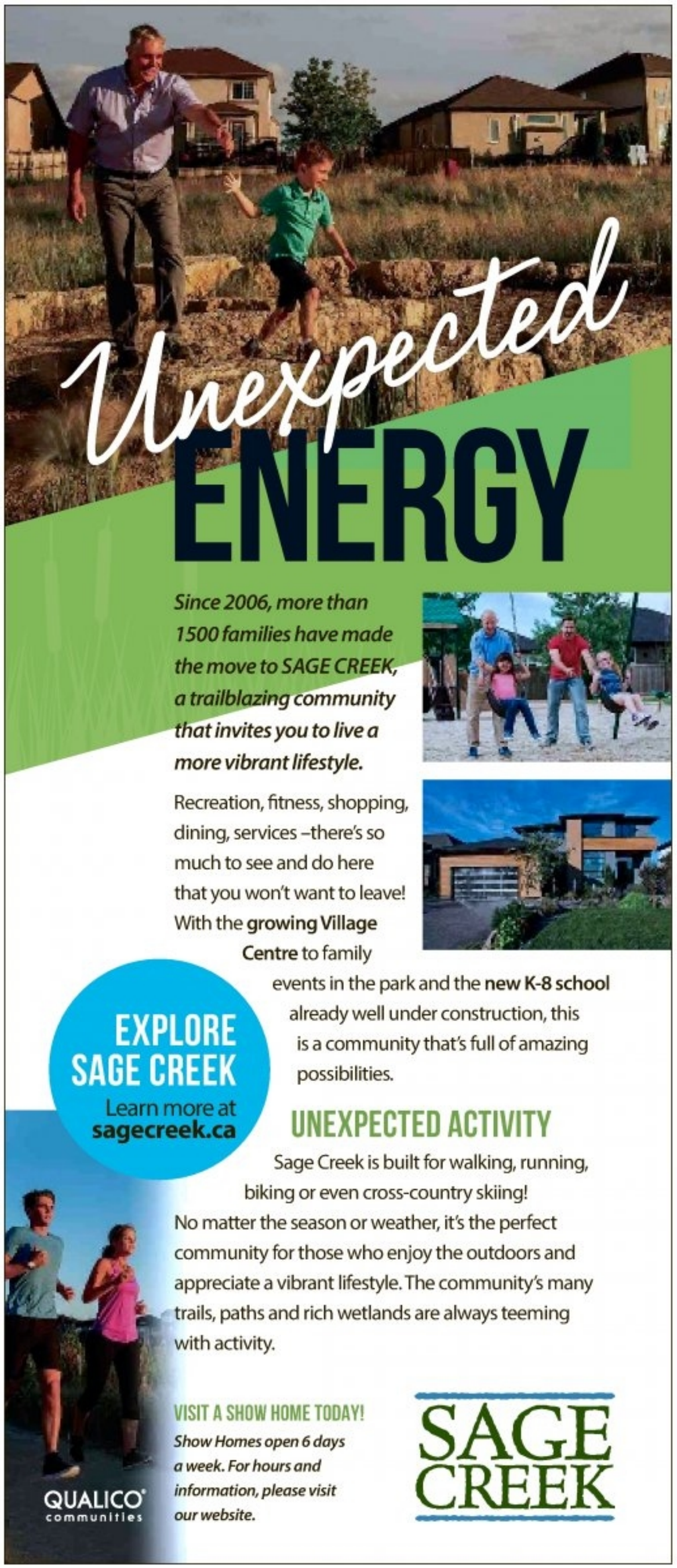
5 FUNCTION AND DESIGN

A garage must first and foremost be functional, but that doesn't mean it can't also be stylish, says Allaire Perrault. She sees the garage as an extension of the house that's often "an untapped opportunity for good design." Aiming for a calm and classic look, she used neutral greys accented with bold colours, like the bright yellow on the cabinet and the blue on the bike racks — an affordable and easy effect to achieve with spray paint.

6 DOWNSIZE

Sending unwanted items the family had collected over 12 years to organizations such as Habitat for Humanity's Re-Store marked the "first step that felt good," says Allaire Perrault. What remained had been sorted into piles on the floor and designated to either hang on Gladiator Garageworks wall racking or to go into lockable storage units. Lastly, Allaire Perrault calculated how many and what kind of hooks, holders and other hanging accessories (such as paper-towel holders) had been needed.





Designers on all the uses of olive

INTERIORS

Mid-century tones meet sculptural wood designs

Gnarled, brawny trunks, a crown full of silvery leaves and clusters of tiny green fruit give olive trees an Old World look. Designers have lately been warming to the tree, its wood and olive hues.

Outdoors, olives are hardy through zones 8-11 and zone 7 if you can protect them from wind. North of that, you'll need to bring them in for the winter.

Olives are fast growers and prolific fruit-bearers outdoors. Don't over-water, prune the inside branches so the whole tree gets lots of light and increase the pot size after a year. Dwarf varieties are easy to grow in a pot or basket with good light.

Right now, Pottery Barn is offering fresh olive branches and dried lavender in an aromatic wreath.

Olive wood

The wood's characteristics — its density and interesting grain pattern — have made olive furniture and accessories popular.

"There's a great sculptural quality to olive wood — a simple bowl becomes an elegant art piece," says New York City interior designer and artist Mike Harrison.

Retailer Homegoods is offering a sphere crafted from olive wood, as well as a curvy side table and various bowls.

Olive wood serveware can be especially nice. A beautifully turned wooden spoon, with the grain curving about the form, is a sensuous tool. Williams-Sonoma has a collection of utensils and cutting boards.

Pottery Barn's Turkish olive harvesting pot can be filled with a household items or plants. Below: Article's tufted olive green velvet Chester sofa. ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The colours

Olive's place in mid-century modern palettes has made it a popular paint colour the past few seasons. It pairs well with other toothsome colours like chocolate, orange, raspberry, cream and mustard.

"Olive tones are timeless, and green is an important colour in 2017," says Sue Wadden, colour marketing director for Sherwin-Williams. The company's Restless Olive packs all the punch of a zesty martini.

Olive pairs well with other woods, and with mid- and light-toned stains. Consider using the colour in family rooms, bedrooms and kitchens for a warm and welcoming vibe.

"I like seeing olive green tones used with dusty pinks and navy blue," says Wadden. "Because olive is such a quintessential food colour, people enjoy a positive association with this colour, especially in the kitchen. Olive tones are great on cabinets and furniture."

A touch of olive

At Pottery Barn, vintage Turkish olive-gathering buckets, made of galvanized metal with symmetrical air vents, have a nice cottage-y look and can hold plants or other household items.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ICON AT 1133 PORTAGE

Construction started! This affordable development consists of 52 units plus 8 accessible designed suites all featuring clean and modern finishes, 9' ceilings, balconies, energy efficient building systems, and indoor and surface parking. Located at the corner of Portage and Minto with easy access by foot, bike, bus, or car to downtown, Polo Park, Wolseley, and West Broadway. Possession slated for fall 2017.

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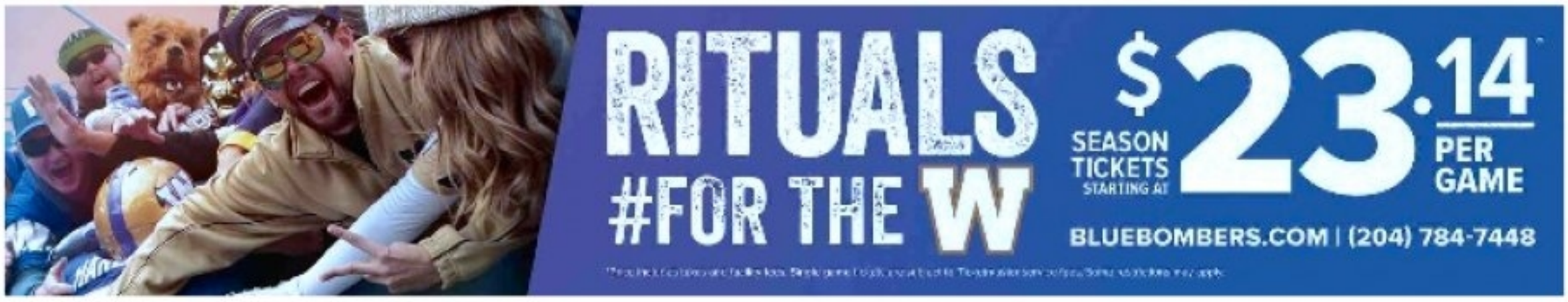


Discover a piece of Manitoba's history while teeing off

Oldest private club in province to host championship golfers during Canada Summer Games

With sweeping views of the river valley, oak tree grove, and the nearby historic ruins of the Trappist Monastery in St. Norbert, it's not surprising Winnipeg's Southwood Golf and Country Club has quickly become a destination for championship golfers.

This summer the golf and country club will play host to the 2017 Canada Summer Games, the third national championship Southwood has welcomed since opening the new course six years ago.

"It was built as a championship golf course with United States Golf Course (USGA) agronomic specifications," explains Southwood's COO Jeff Scott of the nearly 300-acre, 18-hole course designed by acclaimed architect Thomas McBroom. "The USGA has determined the best way to build a golf course including greens and drainage, and we did it right by starting off with a great piece of property to create an amazing golf course, club house and golf shop."

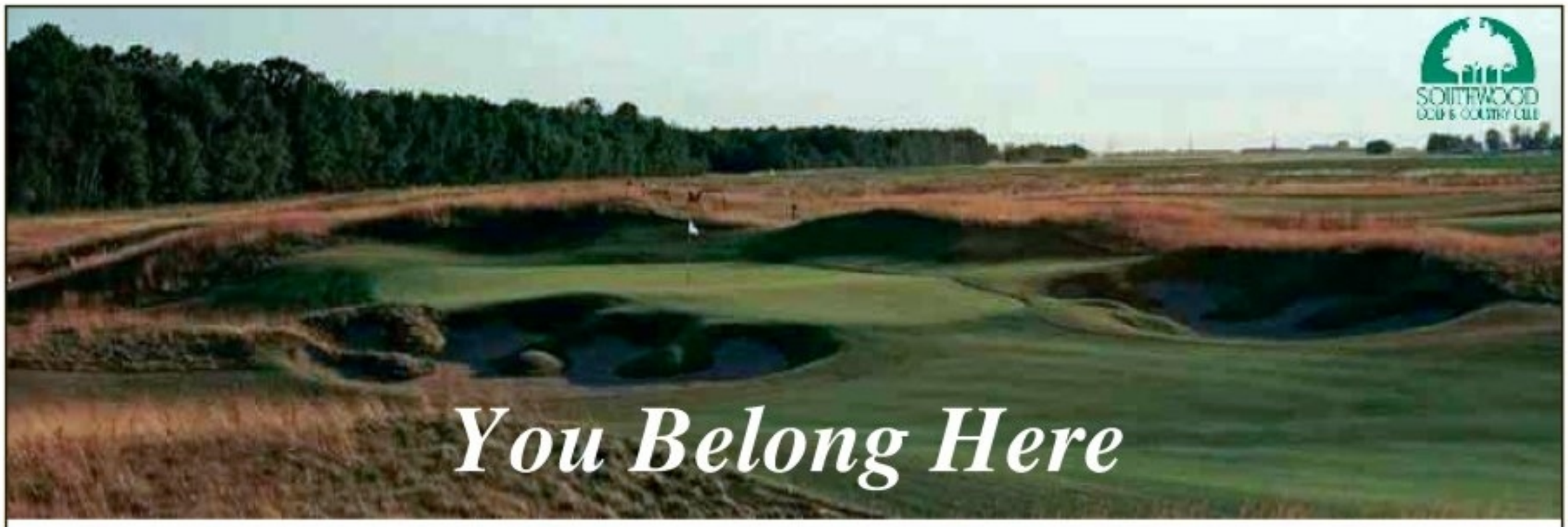
Southwood Golf & Country Club moved from its former home at the University of Manitoba in 2011, when the university offered to buy the course. Southwood is recognized as the oldest private club in the province, spending 75 years at its former location. Scott says it took "a tremendous amount of vision and effort" to find the land and build the world-class facility, located just outside the Perimeter Highway, at 80 Rue des Ruines du Monastere.

It was the history of the spot —which had been used as farmland by the nearby monastery's Trappist monks — that made it an ideal and picturesque setting for the championship course and country club, says Scott.

"They had cattle, an apiary, they made cheese, and they raised Great Danes on the land and there's actually some ruins on the course — on the ninth hole you play through the ruins of the hay barn and the dairy barn," explains Scott, who says preserving the history is still as important an component as creating a challenging course. "We've done quite a bit of research about how the land was used for the previous hundred years and are in the midst of putting that story together with pictures so our members and Manitobans can know more about the proud history here."

CONTRIBUTED

Go to southwood.ca for more information on Southwood Golf & Country Club's course and amenities.



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metro SPORTS
Your essential daily news

Hockey mania in Music City

2017 NHL PLAYOFFS
WESTERN FINAL AWAITS

Tennesseans enamoured by plucky Preds' deep spring run

A radio engineer measured the decibel level at 121.7 late in Nashville's last home game. The NHL may have bigger buildings than Bridgestone Arena, whose official capacity is 17,113. The Predators insist none is louder.

The place known as Smashville is ready for its close-up.

The Nashville Predators have reached their first Western Conference final in franchise history and that has spread hockey fever far beyond their arena and the team's loyal legion of fans. Stars from Carrie Underwood to Lady Antebellum are lining up to sing the national anthem and the likes of John Hiatt and Lee Greenwood are singing with the house band during intermissions.

Not only do Predators' flags and banners drape Nashville's famous honkytonks, they now hang from front porches in the suburbs of Music City.

"You can't drive through a neighbourhood without seeing a flag," Predators president Sean Henry said. "So it's fun to tap into a passion that this community has for sports, and right now it's all about the Nashville Predators."

College football may be king in the South and NASCAR remains popular, but hockey certainly has a foothold. It's not unusual anymore for a Southern team to be in the mix for a Stanley Cup championship — this just happens to be the first time that Nashville has made it this far.

The Predators are on their best post-season run yet and the longest by either of Nashville's two major league franchises in 14 years. Shoot, the NFL's Tennessee Titans haven't reached the playoffs since 2008 and last reached the AFC championship in 2003.

That's why most TVs were tuned to hockey at a local barbecue joint after the Predators ousted St. Louis in six games. People wanted to watch Nashville's next opponent, either Anaheim or Edmonton.

$2,000

P.K. Subban has been fined $2,000 for embellishment after taking a hit from St. Louis's Joel Edmundson during their during Game 4 of their series. It was Subban's second citation.

Nashville native and PGA golfer Brandt Snedeker said he's never seen so much yellow walking around downtown before Game 4 against the Blues. Everyone in his child's class at school has Predators' gear, too.

"To feel the energy on the ice was unlike anything I've felt in sports before," said Snedeker, who brought the Ryder Cup with him to the game. "It was such a dynamic, electric atmosphere to see all that energy in one place pulling for one team and doing something only Nashville would do in the right way … it was awesome to watch."

The Titans have been very supportive. Pro Bowl running back DeMarco Murray stirred up fans waving a rally flag for one game, while coach Mike Mularkey and general manager Jon Robinson regularly wear Predators gear. During a rain delay, the Triple-A Nashville Sounds showed the Predators' playoff game a few blocks away on their guitar-shaped video board. The Vanderbilt Commodores watched the end of Sunday's clincher on their own video board after their own game.

Former Bills and Jets coach Rex Ryan is a season-ticket holder who attended playoff games in St. Louis and Nashville. Former Titans coach Jeff Fisher also was at a recent playoff game.

"People just want to be with this team, and we just love this fan base," Henry said.

"They're on their feet the entire game," defenceman Ryan Ellis said. "You don't see that at a lot of hockey games. It almost feels like a college football game of some kind."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PYEONGCHANG 2018

Schuler's goal is more gold of course

Laura Schuler just bought a house in New Hampshire. She won't be living in it much this year.

Schuler will relocate to Calgary in July and begin preparing for what she and the country hope will be a fifth straight Olympic gold medal in women's hockey next year in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Hockey Canada named the 46-year-old from Toronto head coach of the Olympic team Wednesday.

"The journey is going to be incredible and it's also going to be incredibly hard," Schuler said.

The 28 players invited to try out for the team will be announced Thursday. Those who aren't based in Calgary will move there Aug. 1 to start training for the Winter Games in February.

Laura Schuler
GETTY IMAGES

Schuler is the first former player to serve as Canada's head coach.

She was a tenacious, abrasive forward with a hard shot in 1998 when Canada won silver in women's hockey's Olympic debut in Nagano, Japan.

"You see in the NHL all the time where former players become coaches," Schuler said. "It speaks to where we are in terms of our development in female hockey in Canada and I think that's tremendous."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Real Madrid finishes city rival Atletico

Defending champion Real Madrid withstood an early onslaught by Atletico Madrid to reach a third Champions League final in four years despite a 2-1 loss to its city rival on Wednesday.

Atletico, which trailed 3-0 after the first leg, scored twice in the first 16 minutes at the Vicente Calderon Stadium to move within a goal of sending the semifinal second-leg into an extra time. But Francisco (Isco) Alarcon netted a crucial away goal for Real Madrid before halftime to secure a 4-2 victory on aggregate and a spot in the final against Juventus on June 3 in Cardiff.

Cristiano Ronaldo
GETTY IMAGES

Madrid will try to become the first team to win back-to-back titles since the competition's new format was created in 1992.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Cubs avoid being no-hit by Rockies' Marquez

German Marquez allowed three hits over eight innings and got his first major league hit with a two-run single in the seventh to lead the Colorado Rockies over the Chicago Cubs 3-0 on Wednesday.

Marquez had a no-hit bid going until Kris Bryant's double leading off the seventh inning. He walked Kyle Schwarber in the first and retired 16 straight before Bryant's hit to left.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CFL

Redblacks say 6K Grey Cup seats left

The Ottawa Redblacks say tickets for the 2017 Grey Cup are moving at a brisk pace, which is welcome news for the CFL after organizers of the 2016 league championship in Toronto struggled to fill the stands.

The Redblacks said in a release Wednesday that fewer than 6,000 tickets remain for the 105th Grey Cup, which will be held Nov. 26 at TD Place.

The Redblacks' home stadium will be expanded from 24,000 seats to approximately 35,000 to accommodate the game.

Tickets are currently only available to season-ticket holders and fans that purchase a five-game "Home Opener Ticket Pack." The remaining Grey Cup tickets will be released on a first-come, first-serve basis on June 8.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

"I know there will be no stone left unturned.

Melody Davidson, Hockey Canada's general manager of national women's programs

2 Is secure, meaningful, full-time work in your future?

4 An ever green future for Alberta energy workers

10 Holding employers accountable

WORKING FOR A
#FAIRFUTURE

Issue 1 • Volume 1 A SPONSORED FEATURE BY PEPPER MEDIA Thursday, May 11, 2017

Strengthening the foundations of Canada's workplaces

When Ontario's 60 Loblaws Great Food and Superstores introduced fair scheduling pilots in a deal struck with the United Food and Commercial Workers union, the lives of part-time workers became significantly less stressful overnight. With advance notice on schedules from three to 10 days, employees could now book child care and plan family events with confidence.

Another deal between Unifor Local 414 and the Metro grocery chain guaranteed workers a minimum of 15 hours a week after one year of employment and 24 hours a week after eight years.

These are the kinds of moderate but critical measures that can change the lives of the four million Canadians – about 25 per cent of all workers – who earn $15 or less per hour and often work in insecure, part-time positions. (Almost a third of younger workers are in temporary jobs.)

"Canadians are feeling greater stress about their own work lives and those of future generations, for good reason," reported Dr. Kendra Coulter, a labour studies professor at the Centre for Labour Studies at Brock University. Low pay, erratic hours and little job security are key issues as employers increasingly rely on part-time workers, often hiring new employees even when existing staff want more hours.

"Most people can't get by with so few hours, particularly when combined with a low hourly wage. Unemployment is a problem and so is underemployment," Coulter says.

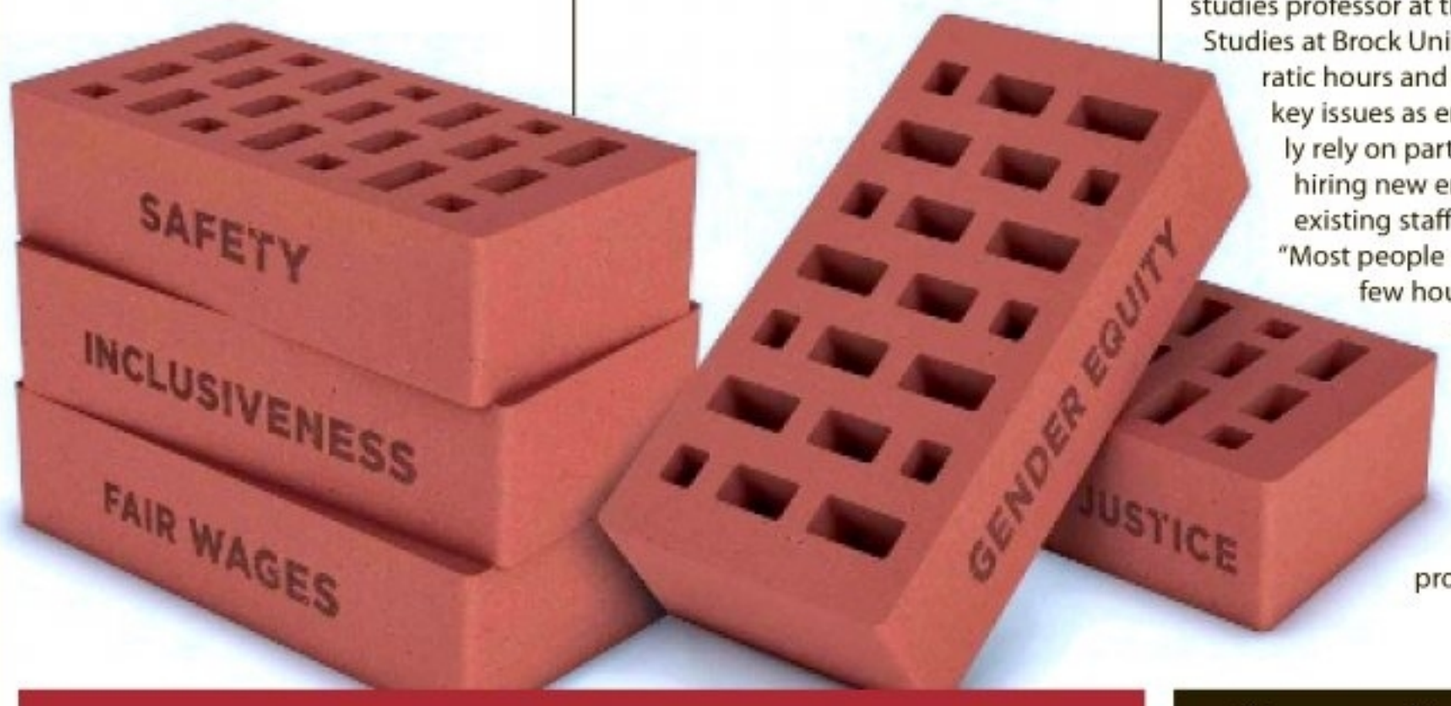
> "You can also profit by paying fair wages and treating employees with respect; earning their loyalty and commitment."
>
> **Dr. Kendra Coulter,**
> Professor, Centre for Labour Studies, Brock University

Fortunately, progressive-minded companies are increasingly collaborating with unions to leverage the benefits of fair employment practices. "You can also profit by paying fair wages and treating employees with respect; earning their loyalty and commitment," Coulter noted.

Samia Hashi, who recently helped to unionize her own workplace at Bell TV, agrees that unions play an important role in ensuring fairness. As a panelist at a recent Young Workers Conference, she said, "Although at times, meeting our objectives and bringing about change can be a long task, we must always keep at it – action can make a difference!

"If more people have a bit more money, they are healthier, happier, able to contribute more fully to society and, of course, they spend it, usually close to home. Many employers in countries like Sweden and some here in Canada have learned these lessons and are prospering."

Workers and governments also have critical roles to play in creating a stable employment future that offers benefits for all stakeholders, Coulter says. "Through commitment and political will, it is possible to grow the economy in sustainable, healthy and ethical ways – so people not only have careers, but can be proud of what they do." ■



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OPINION

Making jobs better, for a fair future

by Hassan Yussuff,
Canadian Labour Congress
President

Feeling on edge lately because of work? Maybe you don't know when your next shift will be, or you can't scrape together enough hours to make ends meet. Maybe you're worried about getting sick and not being able to take time off. Or maybe you or someone you love can't find a job at all.

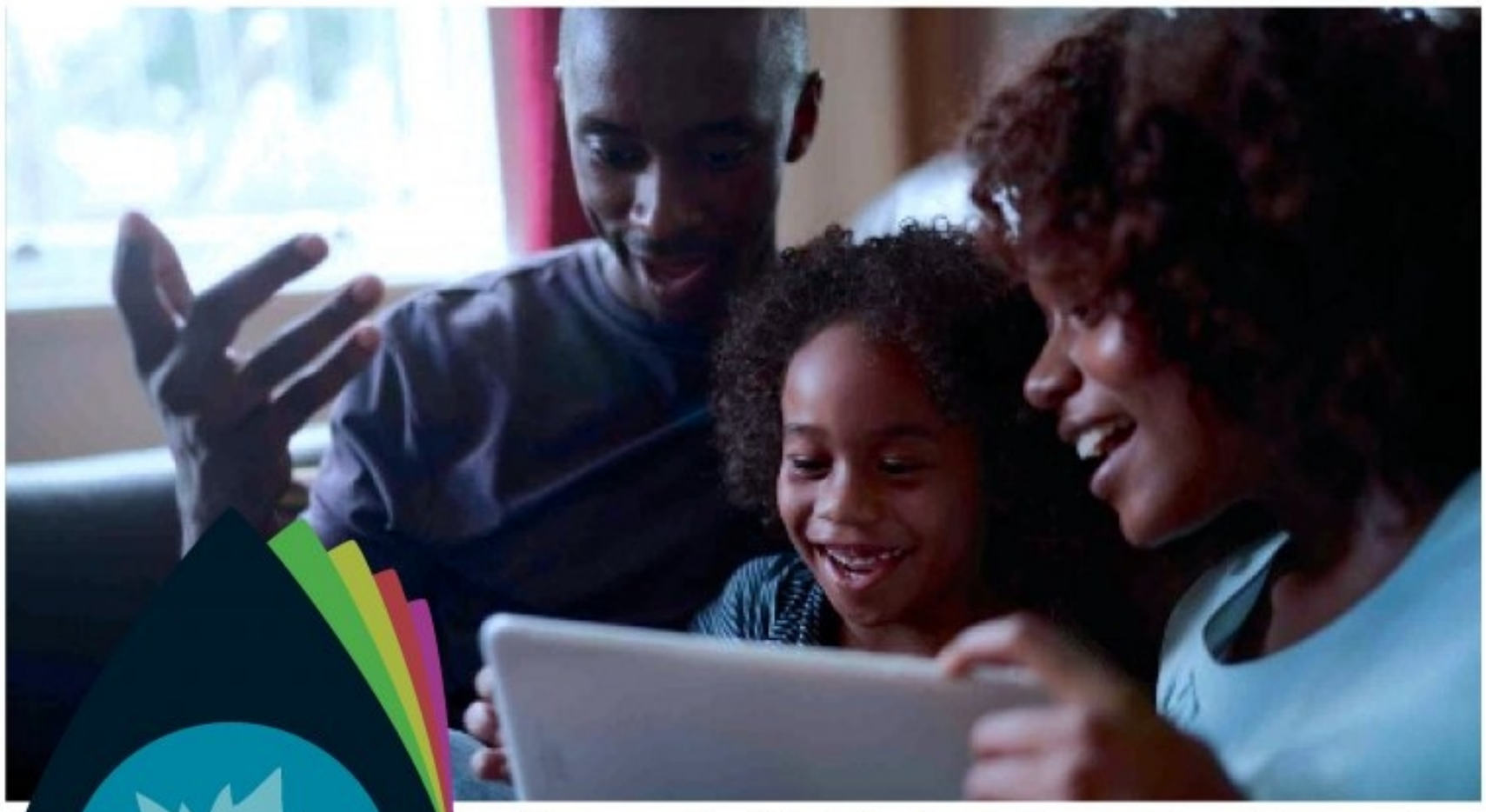
Unfortunately, more and more Canadian workers are struggling to establish their careers. Instead of actually sharing in the benefits of the much-hyped "sharing economy," average people are living precariously in today's labour market. For the first time in history, young Canadians are expected to earn less than their parents.

So I can't help but look at my own nine-year-old daughter with concern about what the future will hold for her. Will she be able to find secure, meaningful, full-time work? Will she be mired in a precarious existence for her lifetime? Is my generation leaving hers behind?

Many of today's young workers may never know the benefit of a lifelong career. Instead they will cycle through a lifetime of revolving door employment that is being dubbed the "job churn." Almost one-third are currently in temporary jobs, many work for multiple employers, and they are twice as likely to be unemployed. Despite being the most educated generation in history, young Canadians today struggle to find jobs that match their qualifications.

The consequences are more than just financial. In a recent survey by the Ontario Federation of Labour, nearly one-third of precarious workers said their most significant concern was how their work situation impacted their emotional health. That is a dramatic stress tax to pay for employment, and it isn't what my generation and my parents' generation wanted for our children and grandchildren.

Unions believe we can do better. We can work together to build a fair future, instead of relying on an unstable foundation of part-time, temporary, low-wage jobs.



Unions are working with federal and provincial governments to win better province-wide and national standards for workers, and help all Canadians build a better future for generations to come. ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

Fairness in our changing world of work starts with raising the minimum wage to at least $15/hour, because working for a living shouldn't mean living in poverty.

Fairness in our changing world of work starts with raising the minimum wage to at least $15/hour, because working for a living shouldn't mean living in poverty. Right now, Alberta is leading the way as they phase in a $15 minimum wage by 2018, and unions are working hard to convince other provinces and the federal government to do the same so there is a national standard for all Canadian workers.

Next, workers need predictable hours and paid time off for illness or emergencies. Otherwise they're left making the same impossible choices between family, health and work.

Many grocery store workers have felt the reality of unpredictability over the past several years, but recently, groups have started working with their unions to tackle that issue. More than 10,000 part-time workers at Ontario's Loblaws and Superstores won fairer scheduling and better hours. These workers now get minimum hour guarantees, and 10 instead of three days' notice when they have to work. Thousands of Metro store workers won similar improvements, which makes achieving work-life balance much easier, especially for parents or those working multiple jobs.

Another way unions are building a fair future is ensuring no worker ever has to choose between losing their job and staying in a violent relationship. As a result of unions' work, the Manitoba government passed legislation last year allowing a combination of paid and unpaid leave to victims of domestic violence seeking safety from abusers. Similar legislation is being considered in Ontario and Saskatchewan.

As our workplaces and communities change, unions are stepping up to meet the challenges in new ways. Unions are working with federal and provincial governments to win better provincewide and national standards for all workers, like the recent new restrictions on federal unpaid internships, a ban on asbestos and better pensions for everyone.

We're working with environmental and community allies to develop strategies for a just and fair transition for workers in industries affected by climate change. Together, we're building a vision of a clean growth economy that creates jobs, keeps communities thriving and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

Together, we can do right by our children and grandchildren – we can turn the tide on precarious work and build a fair future for all Canadians. ■

Making work better for everyone. For Canada's unions, it's a labour of love.
Part-time, temporary, low-wage jobs are no way to live now, or build a future.
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ENERGY

Green shift: Ensuring justice for Alberta's coal workers

With Alberta moving to phase out coal-fired electricity generation in the province, a coalition of workers who will be affected has created a blueprint for a "just transition" plan focused on jobs, affected workers and their communities.

The Coal Transition Coalition's report looks at past successes and failures of other jurisdictions and recommends the government establish an Alberta Economic Adjustment Agency to manage the transition.

"The workers who have dedicated their careers to keeping the lights on need to be supported as they face the closure of coal-fired electrical plants and associated mines," Coal Transition Coalition chair and Alberta Federation of Labour president Gil McGowan says. "This government is a global leader and innovator in climate change policies – it can also be a leader in creating a path forward for workers in industries affected by these policies."

The coalition represents more than 3,000 workers concerned about fairness in terms of pensions, severance, labour-retention strategies and other workforce issues, such as economic diversification.

Last November, the Government of Alberta promised $195 million to support the transition.

In a statement, Economic Development Minister Deron Bilous says he has seen first-hand how phasing out of coal creates uncertainty for workers and their families.

"We are working respectfully and collaboratively with labour leaders and their members, power companies, the federal government and local governments to provide stability and build an economy for the future in coal communities," the minister says.

Bilous says the province worked with the federal government to secure an exception that could allow affected coal plants to continue operating past federally mandated end-of-life dates, by converting to non-coal-fired generation, including with natural gas.

The Alberta government has agreed to provide payments to three electricity companies – TransAlta, Capital Power and ATCO – to compensate for past coal-related infrastructure investments and provide options for them "to transition to new electricity generating methods that would create long-term economic opportunities for the communities they operate in," says Bilous.

> "We feel strongly that 'just transition' policy has to involve more than ensuring employers fulfil their severance obligations. We need plans for retraining and redeployment of people to other jobs."
>
> **Gil McGowan,**
> Coal Transition Coalition chair and Alberta Federation of Labour president

In return, the companies have agreed to fulfil existing and future legal obligations to employees, including severance and pension obligations.

The province appointed an Advisory Panel on Coal Communities to consult with economic development organizations, workers, labour and local leaders about the community impact of the coal phase-out – and how to best support coal communities through this transition.

According to Bilous, the "especially valuable" reports of the Coal Transition Coalition will be included in the panel's feedback to government later this year.

"We are very encouraged by the steps the government has taken so far, but we still need to do more work," says McGowan. "We feel strongly that 'just transition' policy has to involve more than ensuring employers fulfil their severance obligations. We need plans for retraining and redeployment of people to other jobs." ■

United Steelworkers 1595 member Debbi Labrecque, who works at the Highvale Mine west of Edmonton, is one of 3,000 Alberta workers to be affected by the planned phase out of coal-fired electricity. SUPPLIED

POLICY

What is a just transition for workers?

The transition to a clean economy – one that runs on clean energy instead of fossil fuels – holds great promise, but as Canada moves towards that goal, one group of workers cannot be forgotten: those whose careers have been tied to the fossil-fuel economy being phased out.

A just transition involves industrial transformation that will eliminate dependency on fossil fuels and completely overhaul the energy sector. It also requires policy that creates new jobs designed to reduced greenhouse gas emissions – so-called "climate jobs." Finally, it means looking out for the workers from the fossil-fuel energy industry, finding and offering appropriate compensation and, if needed, skills training.

All three pillars – industrial transformation, development of clean energy jobs and fair transitioning of employees – are "interdependent and interrelated to the point where all three must work together – one without the others won't work," says Tony Clarke, chair of the Green Economy Network.

The last time the U.S. imposed duties on Canadian lumber, 15,000 jobs were lost within months. Canada's resource communities can't afford to take another hit like this.

Visit unifor.org/softwood and tell the federal government to stand up to the Americans and save Canadian forestry jobs.

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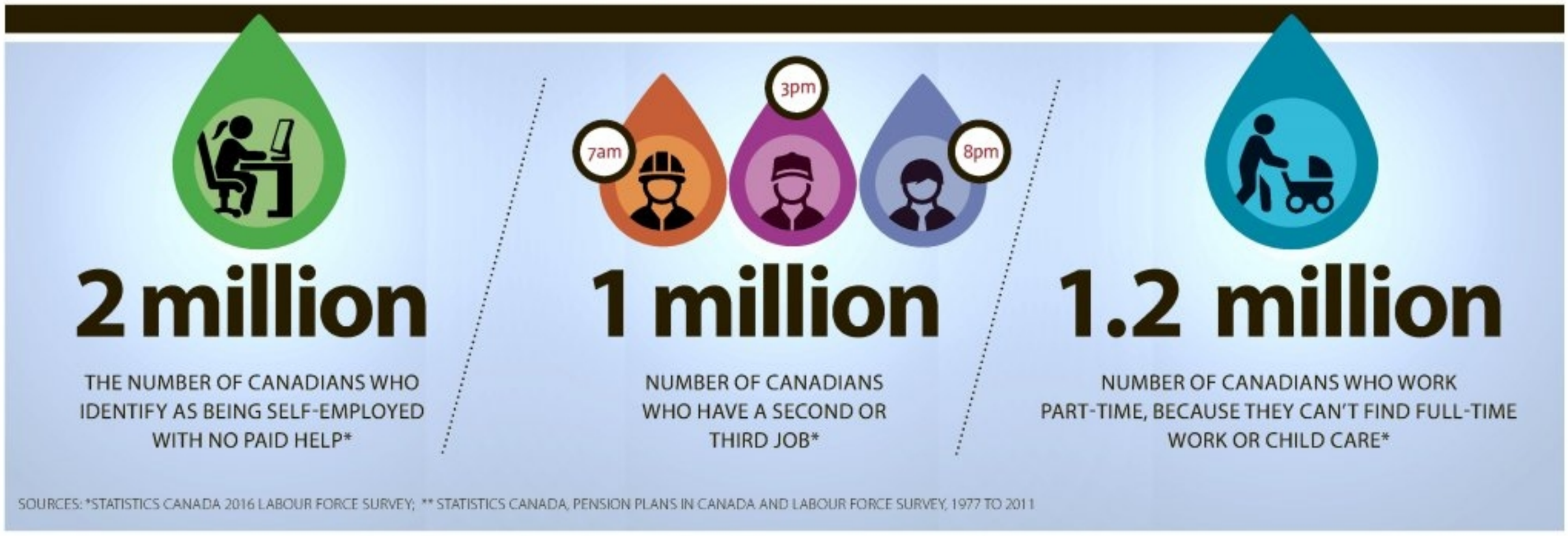
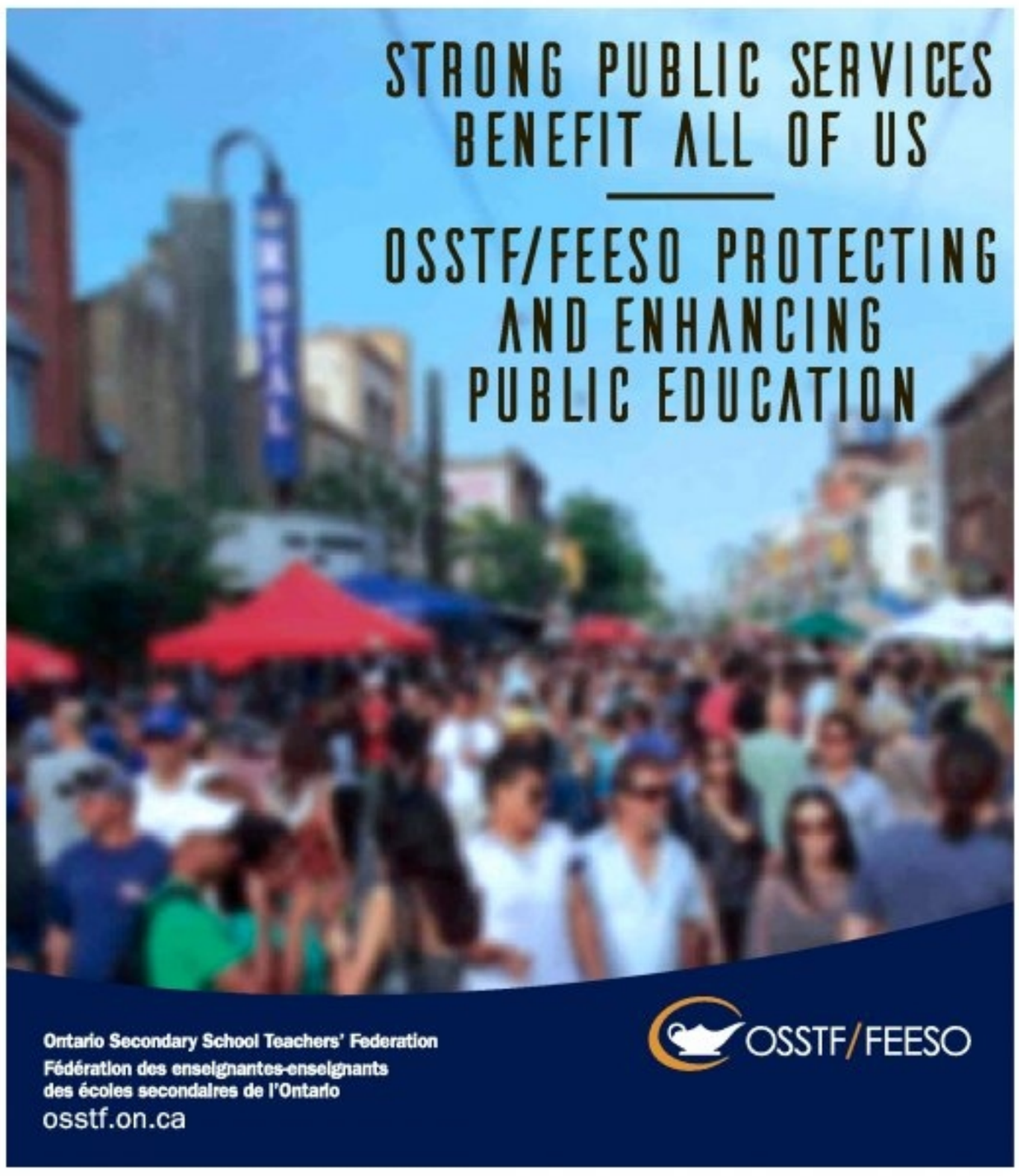
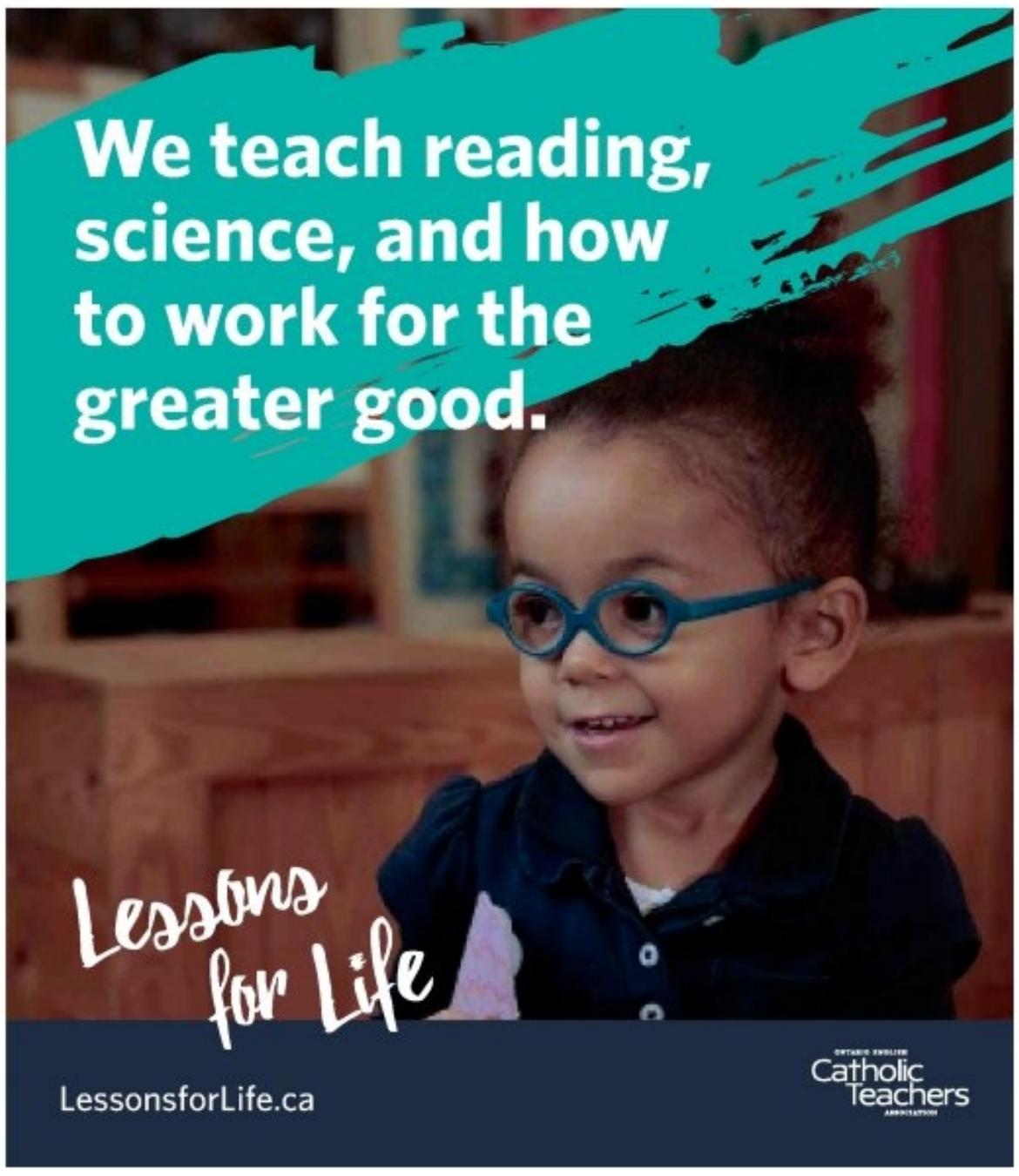
BY THE NUMBERS

Are you living on the edge?

Latest statistics portray the precarious lives of Canadians workers







45% vs. **38%**

CHANGE BETWEEN THE EARLY '90S TO 2011
IN THE PERCENTAGE OF CANADIANS HAVING A
REGISTERED PENSION PLAN**

ANALYSIS

The "gig economy"

Are companies like Airbnb and Uber the harbingers of a utopian 'sharing economy' where everyone benefits? Or are they lowering job standards and raising housing prices? Some say it is time to take a closer look.

In Seattle, for example, Uber driver Takele Gobena invested $14,000 in a car after being assured he would earn at least $25 an hour driving passengers. But with commissions, fees and auto expenses, he often netted about $3 an hour. After failing to make even minimum wage, after working up to 14 hours each day for Uber and Lyft, Gobena was instrumental in unionizing Seattle's drivers. "We just want a voice," he says.

Lis Pimentel, president of UNITE HERE Local 75, which represents hospitality workers, is campaigning for Airbnb oversight and regulation in the Greater Toronto Area. She says about 6,000 homes are currently listed on Airbnb in Toronto. "That is similar to three Royal Yorks and a Sheridan Centre operating with no accountability of any kind," she said in an earlier interview.

Promise them the stars, and the educators who'll help get them there.

Over 78,000 teachers, occasional teachers, and education professionals are dedicated to defending and improving publicly funded, public education in Ontario. The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario knows that we cannot do this alone so we have embarked on a series of community forums and consultations about our schools. Our union, working in solidarity with communities and advocacy groups, is committed to building better schools and a more just Ontario.

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EQUITY

Addressing the gender wage gap

It's 2017, but Canada's working women are still making less money than men, a disparity that runs through all sectors of employment.

Although women in Canada are legally guaranteed equal pay for equal work – meaning that men and women working in the same job get the same pay – wage discrimination exists in jobs of equal value in fields traditionally dominated by women.

"Some jobs traditionally performed by women are given less value," says Vicky Smallman, director of women's and human rights at the Canadian Labour Congress. "For example, truck drivers, who are often men, are paid more than child care workers, who are often women."

The situation is even worse for women who are indigenous, racialized or who have disabilities, she says.

Pay equity can combat that kind of wage discrimination by requiring employers to evaluate and compare jobs based on gender-neutral criteria, Smallman says. Ontario and Quebec have laws that require pay equity, but they only apply to sectors within provincial jurisdiction, and Ontario's only applies to public-sector workers.

"We want the same rules for federal jurisdictions, such as transportation and fisheries," Smallman says. "We want the federal government to table the proactive legislation suggested by its Pay Equity Task Force in 2004. They've promised to table it by 2018, but why not now?"

Unions, she says, are also negotiating with employers to address systemic discrimination.

"Just being part of a union helps narrow the wage gap," she says. "We negotiate fair wages for workers, but having legislation gives us tools to address systemic wage disparity." ■

The Canadian Labour Congress is asking the federal government to table the proactive legislation suggested by its Pay Equity Task Force in 2004, and bring pay equity to women. SUPPLIED

FAIRNESS

Seeking economic justice:

Pay equity, child care and domestic violence leave

PAY EQUITY: Despite the inclusion of 113 action items in the 2004 Pay Equity Task Force report, work traditionally performed by women continues to pay lower wages. The federal government says it will enact legislation by 2018. Why not 2017?

CHILD CARE: A national child care system would address sky-high fees and help parents, especially women, join the labour force. Let's get it done.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEAVE: A third of workers in Canada have experienced domestic violence. Paid leave helps victims escape without fear of job loss. Manitoba's government recently granted five days. The rest of Canada should follow suit.

Canada is stronger with quality public services

Members of the **Public Service Alliance of Canada** know first-hand the impact that years of cuts have had on the quality of Canada's public services.

We have urged the federal government to substantially restore and improve these services. We are encouraged by recent investments in food safety and transportation infrastructure, but much more is needed to restore the services Canadians rely on.

The federal government also requires a stable, permanent workforce with adequate resources in order to consistently deliver the high-quality public services Canadians deserve. Turning public services over to private companies to turn a profit and relying on workers in precarious jobs means lower quality services and higher costs to Canadians.

Our members are committed to

- keeping the food we eat and the medicines we use safe
- helping our veterans
- protecting our environment
- maintaining our national parks and historic sites
- supporting immigrants and refugees
- working to keep illegal drugs and guns out of our country
- making sure our seniors are receiving their CPP, Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement cheques

These are just a few of the public services our members provide. Supporting the people who deliver the vital services Canadians depend on is in everyone's interest.

In 2015, Canadians voted for the promise of real change. Stronger public services are part of the change they wanted.

A message from National President Robyn Benson, on behalf of 180,000 PSAC members.

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OUR MEMBERS ARE WORKING FOR CANADIANS EVERY DAY

The **Public Service Alliance of Canada** represents more than 180,000 workers in every province and territory in Canada and in locations in other parts of the world.

PSAC continues to grow and evolve. Our varied membership includes not only federal public service workers but workers in post-secondary institutions, in territorial governments and northern cities and towns, and in services such as women's shelters, among others.

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PSAC AFPC

Public Service Alliance of Canada
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THE WESTRAY LAW

Holding employers accountable for safety

In the early morning of May 9, 1992, an explosion at the Westray Mine in Pictou County, Nova Scotia, killed 26 miners working underground.

It was one of the deadliest mining disasters in Canadian history. The United Steelworkers lobbied for years and in 2004 won changes to the Criminal Code – known as the Westray Law – that made it possible for police to lay criminal charges when corporate negligence results in a workplace death.

Despite this legal change, to date only four corporations have received a criminal conviction, and only one has been sentenced to prison.

"When criminal negligence results in a worker's death, it is a crime and should be treated that way," said USW Canada National Director Ken Neumann.

Christian Bruneau has experienced the flaws in the system first-hand. His son, Olivier Bruneau, was killed in a construction accident in Ottawa on March 23, 2016. Almost a year later, the Ministry of Labour has laid charges against Bruneau's employer, but a criminal negligence investigation by police has stalled.

"Every worker in the industry has the right to assume that he will go back home at the end of the day and look after his loved ones. This is a right," Christian Bruneau said to the crowd at the Ottawa Day of Mourning event last year.

> "Steelworkers campaigned long and hard to prevent these kinds of workplace tragedies, but if the law isn't enforced, employers can keep cutting corners and risking workers' lives."
>
> **Ken Neumann,**
> Canada National Director, United Steelworkers

"That right was compromised when the workplace was not safe. Olivier did not come back home on [March] 23rd, and the life of his family was forever devastated," he added.

"Steelworkers campaigned long and hard to prevent these kinds of workplace tragedies, but if the law isn't enforced, employers can keep cutting corners and risking workers' lives," Neumann said.

The Canadian Labour Congress and USW are calling on government to mark this year's 25th anniversary of the Westray explosion by acting now to ensure enforcement of the Westray Law.

In response to unions' call, the federal government has committed to working with the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) and its members, with employers, and with provincial and territorial partners on the issue. This includes doing more to ensure labour inspectors and law enforcement officials are trained in provisions of the law, and sharing best practices across jurisdictions.

In an online petition at *Remember Westray.ca*, the CLC is calling on provinces and territories to work closely with the federal government on an urgent action plan to close the enforcement gaps.

"There are clear steps our governments can take to prevent more families going through what the Bruneaus are facing," CLC president Hassan Yussuff added. ■

Top: The Canadian Labour Congress and the United Steelworkers are calling on government to mark this year's 25th anniversary of the Westray tragedy by ensuring enforcement of the Westray Law, which can hold employers accountable for workplace deaths. Bottom: Wreaths mark the National Day of Mourning for Canadian workers killed or injured on the job, Ottawa, April 28, 2016. SUPPLIED

ISLAMOPHOBIA

Standing against racism and discrimination

Unions use collective bargaining to push for fair wages and benefits, as well as advance workers' human rights and protect against discrimination.

In a recent case, a food-service subcontractor at York University in Toronto denied a supervisory position to an employee because of her Muslim practices, including the wearing of a "hijab" head scarf.

The employee filed a human rights complaint, and her union, UNITE HERE Local 75, filed a grievance. She was then awarded a supervisor's position in the bargaining unit.

"We believe this positive outcome would not have occurred had she not stood up for herself and been supported by the union," says David Sanders, organizing director of Local 75. "This past fall and winter, her and other workers' experience with racism and Islamophobia helped lead the union and campus allies to forge a strong coalition going into collective bargaining and this spring's strike.

"The employees were also making poverty wages, and we negotiated a breakthrough agreement with a $15 per hour minimum wage for all workers," he says.

Concerned that the U.S. travel ban against primarily Muslim countries has further inflamed Islamophobia, the Canadian Labour Congress and the AFL-CIO in the U.S. jointly affirmed their commitment "to ensuring that our societies are welcoming and egalitarian, and that we pursue policies that respect the dignity and rights of all working people." ■

FILM

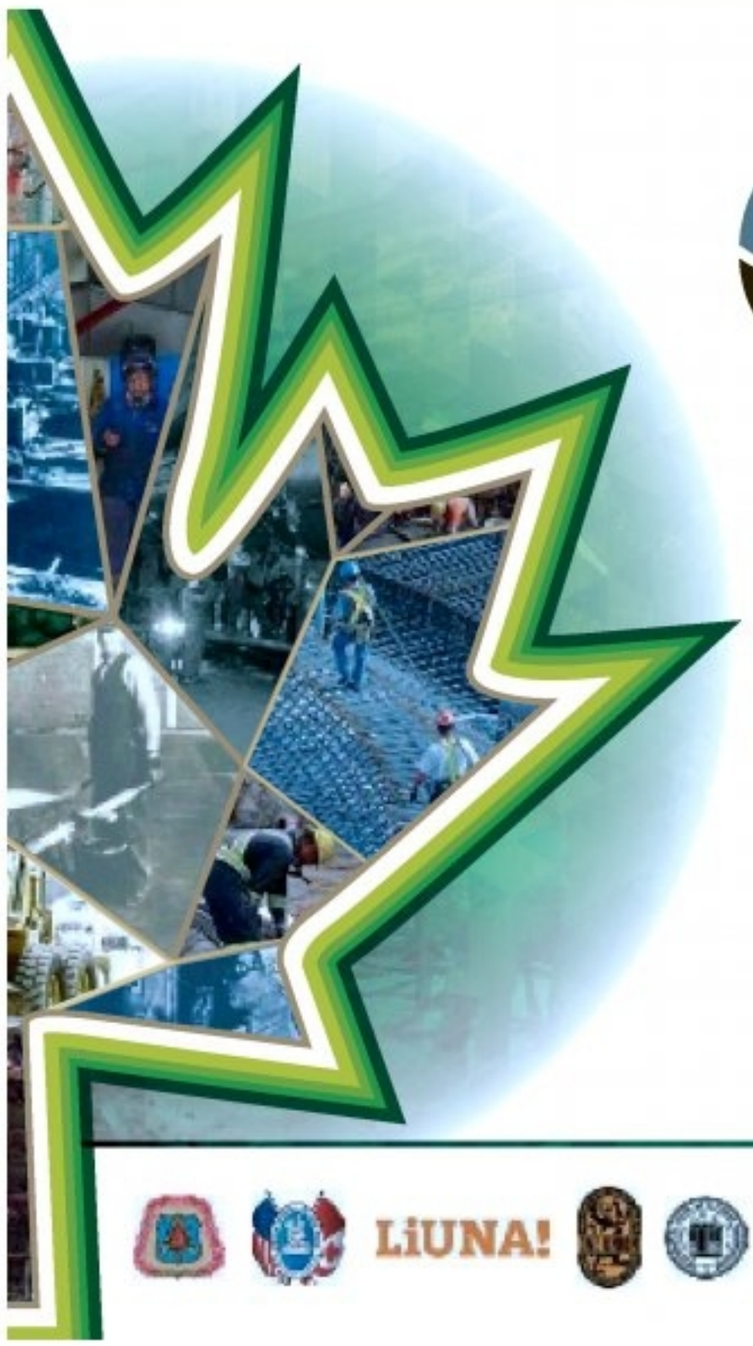
Virtual-reality film simulates refugee camp experience

Imagine living in a refugee camp in your home community. Canada's unions have offered Canadians a glimpse of that experience with a unique, immersive "Refugee Crisis" video. With a 360-degree view, the video simulates the harsh reality of being forced to flee your home as a refugee – as if it were happening in a Canadian town.
[facebook.com/fairnessworks.ca]

This online film is part of unions' ongoing work to support refugee resettlement efforts. "We felt it was important to help Canadians understand what people go through before they arrive here as refugees," says Marie Clarke Walker, executive vice president of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC). "The Syrian refugees we are now taking in have lived in a war zone, which is a remote experience to most Canadians.

When you can live in someone else's shoes, you develop more compassion and empathy," she adds.

Canada's unions also raised over $300,000 for refugee families, and the CLC developed a resource kit to encourage members to donate money and household items, and build friendships with refugees.



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The PWU is a Canadian Union that has helped set the standards for public and worker electrical safety. For more than seven decades, the PWU has worked hard to ensure that our employers are successful and sustainable and that our members receive their share of that success.

We negotiate the best in sustainable wages, benefits and working conditions for our members.

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- Extensive training and skills development
- A highly skilled staff of support specialists
- A very successful hiring hall for peak and intermittent work
- Strong political outreach
- The Power Workers' Protection Plan provides coverage for legal expenses, identity theft and property title insurance to members free of charge

Take a look at the Power Workers' Union — We think you'll like what you see.

To learn more about us, please go to www.pwu.ca

FROM THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HELP KEEP THE LIGHTS ON.

POWER WORKERS' UNION

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Gingery Grilled Salmon and Zucchini

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Get your brain food with this salmon dish that is the perfect meal after a busy day when your mind is working at half capacity but dinner still needs to be made.

Ready in 55 minutes
Prep time: 25
Cook time: 35
Serves: 4

Ingredients
- 3 filets of salmon
- 2 or 3 small zucchinis
- 1 tsp grated ginger
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- 2 Tbsp rice wine vinegar
- 1 Tbsp sesame oil

Directions

1. Soak wooden skewers in water for at least 20 minutes. Whisk together the ginger, soy, vinegar and sesame. Place salmon filets in the marinade for 20 minutes

2. Remove the salmon from the marinade and cut the filets into chunks – maybe 1 x 2 inches – and set aside.

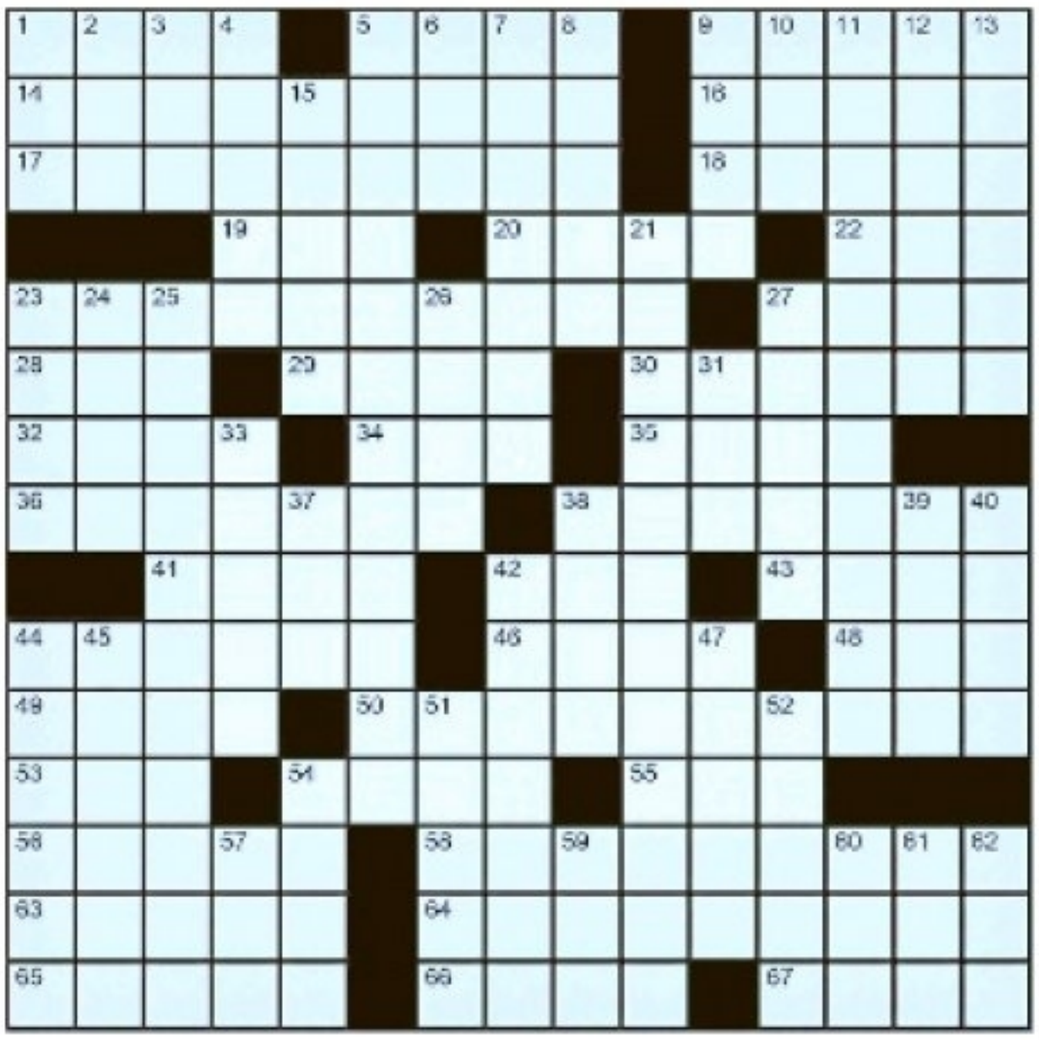
3. Slice the zucchini into rings and toss in the marinade quickly. Thread the fish and veggies onto the wooden skewers.

4. Preheat your grill or grill pan to medium high and wipe the grill with oil. Place the skewers over the heat and give each side about three minutes before turning.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Org. on Discovery Channel's "Mayday"
5. Seasonal bugs
9. Chef Mr. Lee
14. 1879 novel by Victorian writer George Meredith: 2 wds.
16. Dried plum
17. Duck-billed Late Cretaceous herbivore that once roamed #25-Down
18. Songbird sort
19. Mr. Begley Jr.'s
20. Oohs' pals
22. Cacharel perfume
23. "You may be dismissed now.": 3 wds.
27. Popeye's sweetie Olive, and others
28. Mr. Harrison
29. Airline to Israel: 2 wds.
30. The Clash's "Rock the _"
32. "How _ _ Your Mother"
34. 1997 Sugar Ray chart-topper
35. "2001: A Space Odyssey" (1968) star Mr. Dullea
36. Shipping sea sludge, say: 2 wds.
38. Implore
41. Yesterday: French
42. Stallion's snack
43. One-of-a-kind
44. 'Nothing' in Rome
46. Dada artist Jean, and family
48. Mary _ (Cosmetics company)
49. '80s hit: "In _ _ Country"
50. Telethons, when carried by multiple networks
53. Blondie singer Ms. Harry, to pals
54. Bygone Ford cars
55. Swiss river
56. Ms. Ryan of "The Beverly Hillbillies"
58. Super-small
63. De _ (Movie star Robert, and surnamesakes)
64. Required
65. High wave
66. Vexed vocalization!
67. Formerly moments of respite: 2 wds.
12. 7UP 'The _'
13. Bring up those same old complaints
15. 'In _ _ Trust'
21. Jet or Oiler: 2 wds.
23. Deuce-ace
24. Prefix to 'sphere'
25. High Arctic island located in Nunavut: 2 wds.
26. Composer Mr. Schifrin
27. Wickerwork material
31. Old Rome bronze money
33. Connecting/securing
37. Receive
38. Alberta: _ _ Ranch National Historic Site of Canada
39. Suffix with 'Pluto' (Rich ruler)
40. Canadian luggage brand
42. Cage's wheel-runner
44. Chuck Berry title song lady
45. Airline of Spain
47. Strikebreakers, in slang
51. Picking from a police lineup
52. Come about
54. _-majeste (High treason)
57. And not
59. PC monitor
60. Sailor, Jack-_
61. Dads to Jr.s
62. St. John's International Airport code

DOWN
1. Utmost
2. Jennifer Lopez's 'J to _ L-O!'
3. But, Latin-style
4. Prince's "Raspberry _"
5. #25-Down's paleobotany paradise: 2 wds.
6. _ Fail (Irish coronation stone)
7. Most times
8. Valued violin [abbr.]
9. Summertime lotion nos.
10. William Tell's canton
11. Cloudy day's

✷ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

♈ **Aries** March 21 - April 20
Communicating with others, especially with siblings and relatives, is difficult today because you're not sure what you should say. When in doubt, say nothing.

♉ **Taurus** April 21 - May 21
This is a poor day to make important financial decisions, because your information might not be correct. It's possible that someone is deceiving you. Be careful.

♊ **Gemini** May 22 - June 21
You feel tired and lethargic today. Don't worry, because we all have days like this. Don't be hard on yourself or judgmental of others.

♋ **Cancer** June 22 - July 23
Something going on behind the scenes worries you today. The strange thing is that you might not even know what it is. Alot of people feel this way. No worries.

♌ **Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23
You will find it difficult to assert yourself in a group situation today. Don't worry about this. It's probably best to sit back and see which way the wind blows. Play it safe.

♍ **Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is not a good day to be aggressive when dealing with bosses, parents and VIPs. There's too much confusion. Plus, at heart, you do not feel fully confident. Sit this one out.

♎ **Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Don't get ensnared in arguments about religion and politics today. You might not be sure how to respond or what to endorse. Take it easy.

♏ **Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Disputes about shared property, inheritances and anything that you own jointly with others will be confusing today. You won't properly defend your best interests. Avoid these discussions.

♐ **Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Discussions with friends and partners are discouraging today. That's because you feel like you don't know what's really going on. Don't worry — you are not alone.

♑ **Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Do not throw your weight around at work today — there's too much confusion, and people are unsure of what to do and how to do it. Sit back and go with the flow.

♒ **Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is a classic day for confusion when dealing with romantic partners. Remember: Unexpressed expectations almost always lead to disappointment.

♓ **Pisces**
Feb. 20 - March 20
Be patient with and tolerant of family members today, because misunderstandings will be rife. You might feel let down by others. It's very likely that they feel the same way.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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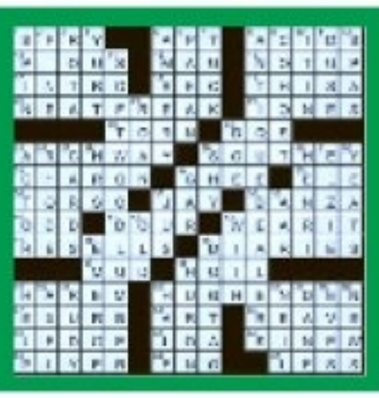

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9	7	5	2	1	4	6	8	3
8	1	3	9	7	6	2	4	5
6	4	2	5	8	3	9	1	7

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